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THE

DOMINICAN;

A ROMANCE:

OF WHICH

THE PRINCIPAL TRAITS

ARE TAKEN FROM EVENTS RELATING TO

A FAMILY OF DISTINCTION,

WHICH EMIGRATED FROM FRANCE DURING THE REVOLUTION.

BY CAPTAIN T. WILLIAMSON,

AUTHOR OF THE WILD SPORTS OF THE EAST.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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THE

DOMINICAN.

This division in the Count's family requires that we should leave him for a while, in order to accompany the two travellers, who left Geselbach after mid-day: the weather being warm they did not proceed very fast, which made it rather late before they reached Herissard, where they partook of a cold dinner; so that it was nearly dark before they entered the fortified and religious town of St. Gal.

While Robert looked after the horses, seeing they were well taken care of, Philip went to the monastery, where, on ringing

a bell at the outer gate, an aged porter made his appearance, and in a very civil manner enquired his business.

"I would speak to father Anselmo."

"You cannot see him now, he is at vespers; but if you will have the goodness to sit down a few minutes, I will send for him in proper time."

A grand chorus was heard, accompanied by an organ, whose solemn notes, added to the venerable appearance of the structure, inspired Philip with peculiar awe. He listened with attention, and in his mind almost wished to become an inmate with the religious choristers; whose whole time he doubted not was devoted to the adoration of their great Creator, and to those works of charity and benevolence in which he delights.

After a short pause, the music was again heard swelling in all the majesty of sacred harmony.

"Ah! they are now chaunting the

Nunc Dimittis; father Anselmo, who is one of the best men living, will soon be at leisure. Good Anselmo! his eyes are always up to heaven in prayer, or humbled to the dust; unless indeed when he is employed in the good offices of our holy brotherhood. Ah! the number of souls he has saved! But when you see him, you will judge for yourself. I will just speak to my brother who attends the inner gate, by which father Anselmo must pass in his way to the cloister, and be back in a moment."

The porter went to communicate the message, and returned immediately.

"Why you are in high luck, for it was only this morning the good father returned from some visitations on which he was sent. He has made extraordinary haste, and, in my opinion, has fatigued himself too much; but there's no keeping him in bounds on such occasions. Lack-a-day! I don't know what St. Gal

would do if he were to die; and, you know, we are all mortal."

The inner gate opened, and an aged monk clothed in black, whose appearance at once inspired Philip with reverence, came forth. It was not sufficiently light to distinguish his features until he had approached close to Philip, who, while the monk was advancing, was busy in untying the twine which was around the parchment that contained both his certificate, and the letter from the Chevalier.

Philip lost no time in presenting the letter, and it being too dark to read the superscription, the porter brought a little lamp from his lodge. The monk at the same time was advancing towards the light: his back was towards the gate, at which Philip stood uncovered.

There appeared a great change in the manner of the monk as he read the letter; he was considerably agitated, but being

eager to know whether the person who brought it was going back to Geselbach, he turned to inquire, when the light striking full upon his face, Philip, with a sudden start, exclaimed, " The Dominican!"

The monk was surprised at the exclamation, but appearing on a sudden to recognize the attendant of the Count, he darted through the inner gate which stood partly open, and in a moment disappeared.

No sooner had the monk entered the monastery than Philip heard the lock turn. He then judged it prudent to withdraw, intending to call in the morning for an answer; to which purport he left a message.

" Ah! now that's just his way: when he has done a good action he can't bear to be told of it: he is a good soul. I do not know what St. Gal would do without him!"

Philip went back to the inn, tormented in his way by a thousand contrary opinions: his features and manner were so changed, that Robert felt extreme concern, thinking he was ill: however, he said nothing until supper was ready, when the youth insisted on his sitting at table.

By degrees the circumstance which had taken place at the monastery was disclosed, but without in the least touching on the real name of the reputed Raymond; nevertheless Robert, who had heard many strange stories about the inhabitants of the monastery, found sufficient to excite his curiosity, and to induce his making some inquiries of the landlord, who was a Lutheran.

At the first question stated to him, the host shewed a disinclination to entering at all upon the subject; but being pressed to an answer, he shut the door of the

apartment, and in a whisper asked "If the gentleman had any business at the monastery?"

Thinking no harm could arise from the disclosure, Philip in brief terms explained all that had happened; and concluded with saying he should go according to his promise in the morning for an answer.

The landlord went out, and, after looking around, to ascertain that no one was in a situation to overhear, he proceeded thus.

"Gentlemen, it is fortunate that your return is expected, for it may tend to your safety. But you must not trust entirely to that chance; get your supper, and take a few hours rest, but be sure to leave St. Gal before the monks go to matins: your horses shall be in readiness. My life is in your hands: I confide in your secrecy!"

Having given them this warning he

withdrew; they beckoned to him to sit down—they entreated him to stay one moment. He put his finger to his lips, and hastily quitted the apartment.

"This is strange!" said Robert, with a look of surprise.

Philip thought so too; but as he was then endeavouring to connect the various occurrences he had seen, though to little purpose, he made no answer.

Notwithstanding they could not account for such extraordinary conduct in the monk, they agreed that it was rather suspicious, and determined not to neglect the landlord's advice, to whom having paid the amount of his bill they retired to bed; he repeating in an emphatic manner that "they might depend on being called at three o'clock, when they would find their horses in readiness."

They were awakened early in the morning by the landlord himself, who, without calling any of his people, had

saddled their horses. They were soon dressed, and, having mounted, were led out by a back way, through a narrow lane, into the great road leading to Constance.

The innkeeper, however, did not accompany them beyond his own premises; they followed the directions he had given as to their course, while he, with a cautious step, returned to his bed.

Philip's mind was not at ease, though on the score of his own personal safety not so much as a suspicion ever obtruded itself; but when he weighed the insinuations of the innkeeper, who he doubted not had the best of information on the subject of the overgrown influence of the monastics at St. Gal, and compared the abrupt conduct of the Dominican, together with the very singular circumstances under which his ci-devant captain then appeared, a kind of mutiny arose in the veteran's mind as to the propriety of re-

taining so curious, and perhaps so mischievous, a secret.

"The Chevalier was a brave man," said Philip to himself, as he trotted along, a few paces in the rear of Robert, whose juvenile ardour urged him to rather more speed than was altogether suitable to his companion's soliloquy:—"he was a brave man, and was respected in the regiment, and I ever found him kind and indulgent! Perhaps misfortune has driven him to this desperate course: the best may become vicious by a familiarity with the votaries of pleasure; and, possibly, the Chevalier, having disgraced himself at the gambling table, and feeling himself an exile from every branch of respectable association, in a moment when reason has been expelled by want has joined that execrable horde of marauders who lay the adjacent country under contribution."

Philip reasoned like a philosopher, and would have made but an indifferent magistrate on such an occasion: he was attached to the Chevalier by that most generous principle, which actuates him who saves a life at the hazard of his own, to continue his good offices towards his fallen friend.

After they had travelled about an hour, Robert suggested the expediency of appeasing certain cravings which the morning air and the exercise had engendered in his stomach: he proposed halting at a neat little half-way house, which offered a comfortable repast to the hungry travellers. They accordingly alighted, and sat down to a breakfast such as evinced the simple mode of living among the inhabitants of the Turgaw.

While they were thus employed, a boat was seen proceeding down the lake of Constance, full in their view, and distant about a mile. She seemed to be

crowded with passengers, and there appeared to be great exertion made to get her forward. About a mile behind were seen several other boats, as if in pursuit.

The landlord exultingly exclaimed, "Aye, they will have even this boat, I warrant!"

"Gentlemen, we shall, I hope, get rid of this nest of villains, this daring gang of Raymond's: I see the militia are after them, and if they can but come up with the villains before they get into the Rhine—"

"Why before they get into the Rhine?" said Robert; "surely they can follow wherever the robbers can lead!"

"No, sir," answered the host; "the boat you see yonder, in which is a part of Raymond's gang, that doubtless have not been out for nothing, is on a peculiar construction: she sails and rows beyond all comparison, as you see, and

is adapted to the various channels which fall into that rapid river; so that when once the villains get within the wildernesses which skirt all the way to Feldkirk, it is next to impossible they should be taken; for the gang is so numerous, and so well provided, even with artillery, that no party has ever yet been able to penetrate into the forests sufficiently to ascertain where the principal haunt is situated."

"Surely," said Philip, "a body of regulars under an enterprising and able officer would solve the doubt, by bringing in the whole of the banditti!"

"I should think," added Robert, "that the militia must be preferable, as they would be better acquainted with the country; and being rather actuated by honour and zeal, than mercenaries ever can be——"

Robert's eye at this moment crossed upon Philip's countenance, in which

both honour and zeal were so strongly delineated, that the youth felt the contradiction too forcibly to be able to proceed:—he stammered, he hesitated, he stopt.—His cheeks glowed, his eyes became unsteady, and he was completely agitated.

"Gracious heaven!" thought he, "how could I forget the presence, the modesty, the merits of my disabled companion!"

Philip perceived what passed in the youth's mind, and would have changed the subject, considering himself as the aggressor; but the landlord, who possessed a certain degree of veneration for the independence of his native country, and who had a brother in the Constance militia, could not let pass the opportunity of expressing his entire reliance on the success of the attack then made on the marauders.

"They cannot possibly escape the mi-

litia," said he, with an air of exultation; " they are sure to be overtaken; see, the pursuers get on very rapidly!"

" They do," said Philip, very coolly, " but not so rapidly as those they pursue!"

" By heavens, they are aground!" said the host, " it is all over with them; now we shall see their heads on the spikes at Constance!"

Philip looked at Robert, who joined in the pleasure felt by the innkeeper. " The birds are not yet in the cage," said the old soldier; " and I think they are making such exertions as cannot fail to get them clear of the impediment: I see they have all jumped overboard, and are striving to push the vessel off.—See, there she floats!—Look, they have hawled home the sheats of their sail, and are again at their oars!"

" *Diable!*" exclaimed the host.

" What a pity!" said Robert.

" I dare say they are gallant fellows,"

rejoined Philip, "and, to say the truth, though I doubt not they all deserve to be hanged, I feel a certain pleasure in seeing them escape."

"You cannot be a Swiss!" said the publican.

"He is a Frenchman!" said Robert.

"*C'est possible!*" replied the host, who did not think much of his guest's principles after such a declaration.

The bill was paid, and they set off at a round pace, Philip having first lighted his pipe, his head full of reflection, and his heart full of commiseration for the possible fate of the party whose exertions he had witnessed. They had not proceeded above a mile, when the road, leading over an eminence, gave them an opportunity of seeing the boats that went in pursuit returning, by signal from their commander, towards Constance.

Philip smiled; his countenance beamed with delight. Robert felt for the

honour of the militia, and the blush of wounded pride mounted to his cheek.

The veteran contented himself with the implied validity of his position: he did not utter a word in the way of exultation; but Robert observed, that the Corbiers battalion would not have let them off so cheap.

Philip took his pipe from his mouth, and, with a shake of his head, which might be substituted for whole volumes of criticism, very gravely observed, "Indeed, Mr. Robert, I have a good opinion of your corps, because I have a good opinion of you; and I should hope you would not remain in one that did not abound with all the good qualities of the military profession. But, though the bricks may be good, the house may be bad; either from want of a good plan, or of a skilful architect. So may a battalion be composed of excellent, brave youths; while the want of experienced com-

manders, or of a due attention to all the internal regulations, might subject the corps to not only disgrace, but to total annihilation in the moment of contest."

"I should prefer death to dishonour, Philip!"

"I don't doubt it, Mr. Robert, but you might have the misfortune to suffer both, without affording the smallest pretext for accusing yourself, or your gallant comrades, of any unsoldierlike deficiency. Your high sense of honour, your military ardour, and your youthful impatience, call to my mind a thousand instances where bodies of the finest fellows in the world, lads who—in short, lads like yourself, who gloried in the arduous clash of bayonets, have been sacrificed either by the ignorance of their leaders, or by the want of that cool subordination which results from a confidence in the commander, and from the experience of former struggles."

Robert insensibly had raised his crest, and felt all the force of Philip's remarks; yet he doubted whether the Corbiers infantry could have failed in the object which had given rise to the conversation.

"But, Philip, recollect the pride of an independent corps; of one formed by the association of men of honour—"

"And, on the other hand," rejoined the veteran, "call to mind that the regulars have either a character to maintain, as is the case with all old regiments; or one to gain, if it be a new levy: consider, that the military profession, wherever found, rests on the basis of individual conduct and of collective reputation; that though, as you say, they are mercenaries, yet that the first men in the kingdom are to be found on the rolls, each expecting promotion and favour according to his merits; and that the same honour and professional

pride which actuate the volunteers, are inseparably annexed to the whole body of regulars, from whom the former take their motions, in those as well as in all other points. I have, however, always considered it both impolitic, and unjust, that mutual depreciation should ever be expressed. The soldier, in whatever class he may be found, should be cherished and commended, so long as his private character and the reputation of his regiment remain unsullied."

They were now approaching fast towards the busy and patriotic city of Constance, which seemed to sit with majestic consciousness on the edge of that beautiful lake through which the waters of the Rhine bend their course.

To Robert the sight was new; but to Philip the recollection of that spot where his beloved partner had breathed her last, and from which his daughter had so lately absented herself, gave many a heart-rend-

ing pang, and caused an obvious dejection.

He looked with diffident emotion over the well-known scene, and as the bridge presented itself to his view, an involuntary sigh escaped from his bosom, and attracted the attention of Robert.

Seeing the tear prominent upon either eye, and that a strong tint of melancholy reigned on the veteran's features, the youth would willingly have condoled with him; but an entire ignorance as to the cause, and an unwillingness to enquire into it, made him refrain from any question, lest he should touch a chord unattuned to mental harmony.

Philip drew forth the portrait of his little Annette, kissed it, and, returning it to his pocket, felt that kind of relief which seemed a triumph in behalf of his fortitude: all would probably have gone well, and the command over his passions would have been completed, had not

Robert, with the view to change the subject in favour of his aged companion's feelings, enquired what ancient venerable building stood at the other end of the bridge?

It was the chapel of St. Bernard, in the cemetery of which Philip had deposited the remains of his beloved wife. In that chapel he had heard the requiem, whose solemn notes seemed again to vibrate on his ear. He again imagined himself assisting at the last sad duties, and again saw the object of his affection consigned to the ultimate receptacle of mortal frailty. The querulous hymn, which recommended her departed soul to the mercy of the universal judge, faintly echoed on the organs of memory; while the glad chorus, which seemed to announce her participation of heavenly bliss, again resounded in all the swell of sacred enthusiasm.

He was lost in the melancholy enjoy-

ment of the renovated sorrow, and, regardless of every other circumstance, eagerly uncased the portrait of his dear little Annette: with a mind full of affection, benevolence, and religion, he pressed it to his lips; while the streams from his eyes seemed to flow in competition, and to urge their way towards the object of parental delight.

Robert contemplated the veteran's extacy of suffering, with silent admiration. He was grieved to find his question the cause of so unforeseen an effect, and prudently refrained from asking any further questions; fearful of adding to the distress of his worthy companion.

Philip freely indulged his grief, and by degrees felt himself relieved from the agitation into which the sight of the chapel of St. Bernard had thrown him; he put up the portrait, and having wiped his eyes, drew forth his snuff-box, and gradually changing the subject of his

meditations, as he viewed the lid, consoled himself with the reflection, that not even his royal benefactor was exempt from the fickleness of fortune, or the certainty of fate.

As they entered the town, Robert enquired for the best inn; Philip said they should be best accommodated at the *Cheval Blanc*, "But," added he, "it is in the suburbs of St. Bernard, and my memory would be too busy in presenting to my imagination a thousand particulars, which I ought not to allow a moment's possession of my mind; therefore, with your leave, we will put up at the Guillaume Tell, which being near to my daughter's late dwelling in the square, would be a convenience to me in obtaining information as to her present residence."

The proposal was immediately adopted; and, while their dinner was preparing, the two travellers agreed to walk forth

in search of the respective objects of their solicitude.

Robert took a parcel from his valise, and accompanied Philip to the square, where the eyes of the latter were soon attracted by the dwelling in which he had left his Annette under the charge of her aunt.

As they approached its portal, the veteran's countenance underwent a thousand changes. His letter having been returned was a severe blow; and the vicinity of that habitation in which it ought to have been delivered, pressed upon his heart, and nearly subdued his manly fortitude.

Despondency was not, however, his failing, and hope now and then seemed to illumine his eyes, calming the suggestions arising from the disappointment he had experienced.

The door opened, and a slight glimpse presented to his eager vision the figure of a person, strongly resembling his sister.

in-law; but the form was so emaciated, and the features so tinged with a deep shade of melancholy, giving a still more *sombre* cast to the ravages of time, that the good Philip's mind was agitated between hope and fear.

He was rejoiced to think it might be the curate's widow; while, on the other hand, he trembled for the explanation of her apparent dejection, and the return of his letter.

The door was about to be closed, when it was again more widely opened to allow the egress of a man, who evidently appertained to that class which subsist by the preparation of the deceased for the funeral rites; while within were seen others, whose appearances confirmed the suspicion which now had gained full possession of Philip's thoughts.

He stopt suddenly, and, after considerable emotion, with difficulty uttered a deep, hollow groan, which seemed to

proceed not from a heart in the full and vigorous exercise of its functions, but overcome by long endured griefs, and then rent by the force of insupportable anguish.

Robert supported his companion, who, notwithstanding his intrepidity as a soldier, was a very woman in the moment of domestic calamity. The youth having understood that Annette was absent from Constance, little thought that anxiety for her immediate safety was the cause of so sudden a change; but, seeing Philip's eyes rivetted to the house which he had, on entering the square, pointed out as her abode, concluded the recollection of past scenes, and the regret of not seeing his family, had disturbed the veteran's mind, and overcome his faculties.

The latter, however, gradually recovered, and as the cold dew, which had supervened upon his brow, gave place to the restoration of genial warmth, he proceed-

ed in silent dejection to the door, which, before his arrival at its threshold, had been slowly and cautiously closed.

Philip endeavoured to open the door by lifting the latch, but it was fastened within: he tapped with his finger; the bolt was gently withdrawn, and the faded visage of the curate's widow appeared full before him.

The good woman screamed, and fell senseless, while the light dimmed upon the moistened eyes of the veteran, who with the utmost difficulty reached the large high-backed chair in which the widow was daily wont to repose after dinner.

For a few seconds he was completely lost in that state which nature kindly interposes for the relief of minds surcharged with sorrow; while Robert began to suspect he had been mistaken as to the cause of the good man's sufferings, and his tender feelings being excited, he soon

felt that his own disposition could boast but little more firmness than even poor Philip's had shewn.

After that submission which nature had exacted from the parent's heart was amply paid, and that the returning circulation had began to restore him to the use of his senses, the veteran gradually raised his head, and directing his eyes to the seat of Omnipotence, uttered a few fervent, but indistinct, ejaculations, and became more composed.

Robert was standing before him, chafing his temples, his heart beating in sympathetic sadness, and his cheeks moistened by the overflow of sensibility.

Thinking that a little cool water would contribute to his friend's restoration, the youth moved round for the purpose of reaching a vessel that stood on a little bracket, when he thus accidentally opened the view into a back room, of which the door stood a little on the jar.

The end of a coffin, partly covered by a pall, and with a small metal escutcheon in form of an agnus, was the first object that struck the almost unconscious eye of the old soldier.

The sight operated like the electric fluid. Philip was struck with horror, he was for a moment petrified; but suddenly clasping his hands forcibly together, he exclaimed, "Oh! Annette, Annette! oh! my beloved Annette!"

A sudden shriek, uttered in the chamber above, attracted the attention of the afflicted parent. It was the well known voice of his beloved daughter, who exclaimed, "Oh, my father! my father!"

Philip darted out of the parlour, and in a moment had clasped his Annette to his bosom!

Who shall attempt to describe their meeting!

"Can you forgive me, father?"

Philip scarcely allowed her words ut-

terance; he held her firmly to his bosom, while, as her half evading eye poured forth the warm effusions of a contrite heart, the smile of affection which reigned upon his open countenance seemed to declare that her pardon was sealed.

The widow no sooner recovered from the fit occasioned by Philip's appearance at her door, than she began to cross herself, and hurried away to a crucifix which stood over a ritual on the mantle-piece: she lost no time in kneeling down; and, in a voice which sufficiently indicated the terrors that possessed her, mumbled over a prayer to the Virgin, making the beads pass through her hand with a truly zealous rapidity.

The glances she, from time to time, threw over her shoulder, and the expressive manner in which she seemed to search around the room, when she thus ventured to abstract her eyes from the object of devotion, would in any other situation

have rendered her an excellent subject for ridicule; but the occasion was too solemn for even the most thoughtless of the party to indulge in a smile.

"Did you see it, father?" said the old lady, in notes of alarm, to a priest who was entering from the back parlour, where he had been performing the pious offices of his function over the deceased.

"See what, daughter?" answered he, in surprise.

The widow made no reply, but looking wildly round the room, said, "It is gone!"

At this moment Philip, anxious to embrace his sister, and to enquire of her respecting those particulars which he judged, from Annette's manner and supplications, would be improper for the latter to detail, had seated himself on the edge of his daughter's bed, and tapping three times with the point of his sword on the floor, called in a decided tone

"

No sooner did the widow hear the successive taps on the floor, than her heart was near beating through her breast; but the sound of her name in the well known voice of Philip, who was not within sight, occasioned a relapse, from which she was with difficulty recovered.

The piercing scream which escaped her, at the first moment of returning insensibility, summoned Philip, who, eager to learn the cause of so alarming a sympton, hurried down stairs.

On descending, he perceived through the door of the back parlour, that the coffin was small; such as could contain only a very young infant.

It required no explanation; he at once guessed how matters stood.

For a moment, offended honour seemed to rule his determination; but it was only for a moment. Paternal tenderness and solicitude flew to the rescue of his darling

child, and erased the dictates of pride from his heart.

Their triumph was easy; for the tablet was of nature's softest clay.

Jaqueline lay senseless; the priest was sprinkling her with consecrated water, Robert was supporting the old lady, and two or three other persons, who had been invited to attend the funeral, were communing in a corner.

Every means were used to recover the widow, but it was not until a surgeon had opened a vein, that she came to herself: the paroxysm of joy at seeing Philip was nearly as much to be apprehended as the fear which had overcome her, when she thought it was only his spirit that had visited her dwelling.

Seeing how the family were situated, Robert judged it proper to retire, for which the bundle he had to deliver offered a sufficient plea. Accordingly he took

it up, and referring to a memorandum-book, for the address of the person to whom it was to be delivered, requested of Philip to inform him where the widow Descazau lived?

Jaqueline's ears caught the sound; before Philip could answer she asked "what he wanted with the widow Descazau?"

"This parcel is to be delivered at her house; it is for a young woman named Annette Armand."

"Surely you mistake, Mr. Robert," said Philip.

"No, I am perfectly correct," answered the youth, repeating the direction as contained in his instructions.

"This is strange," said Philip: "here are we come absolutely on the same business; yet have travelled so far together without having the least idea that we were going to the same house."

"What, then she lodges here perhaps?"

"No, Sir," said the widow, "she lives here: I am the widow Descazau, and Annette Armand is no other than Philip's daughter."

She was not long in getting upon her legs; when, putting on her spectacles, she looked hard at Robert, seemingly with suspicion, and without any ceremony took the bundle from his hands. In a moment her scissars had cut the sewing, and the contents were as immediately brought to view.

They consisted of various articles of wearing apparel, and in a neat leathern purse was a small sum of money.

Philip took Robert by the hand; he said not a word; but the deficiency was amply made up by a look which conveyed all that gratitude, esteem, and admiration, could dictate.

The widow viewed the matter in a very different light; she looked at the clothes, at Robert, at the money, and at Philip,

in such a curious manner, that the priest, who was a benedictine from the abbey at Schaffhausen, was quite at a loss to guess her meaning.

Robert and Philip concluded that her mind was occupied solely by the satisfaction she could not fail to derive from so handsome a present: the sequel convinced them of their error.

"Very pretty, indeed!" said Jaqueline with a sneer, "very pretty indeed! but, pray who sent them?"

Robert was silent: the company seemed to expect an answer, and were surprised that none was given.

"I say, who sent these things?" repeated the widow, with a look that perfectly accorded with the imperious tone in which the query was put.

"I am not at liberty to disclose the donor's name," answered Robert; "but I conclude my forbearance on that head

will not depreciate the apparel, or render it less acceptable."

"Secret charity is the most commendable;" said the priest.

"Secret, or not," said Philip, "the clothes are excellent, and they, as well as the money, are highly acceptable: I will take the whole up to my poor girl, for whose use I doubt not they were intended."

"You are perfectly right, Philip," said the young corporal.

The veteran was about to take up the clothes, when Jaqueline made an attempt to snatch them away: in this, however, she was disappointed; for Philip with his remaining arm made a general sweep, while the benedictine interposed, and gave him the opportunity to make good his retreat up stairs, for the purpose of shewing the present to Annette.

Foiled in this point, no sooner did the widow find herself at liberty than, regardless of the mournful occasion and of the presence of her confessor, she flew at Robert, seizing him by his hair, and abusing him in the most scandalous terms.

The company interfered, and effected the youth's deliverance from her unexpected attack; not, however, before she had torn away a good handful of his fine curling locks, with which she darted into the back apartment, and would have fastened the door, had not the benedictine threatened to put her under the ban of the church for so gross a disrespect of his presence, when summoned to one of the most awful duties of his calling.

Philip and Annette were so completely occupied with the review of the clothes, and with the happiness they enjoyed at such a very unexpected meet-

ing, that they took no notice of the confusion they heard below. The former, indeed, judging it was a continuation of the subject on which he had differed from his sister, and that there were enough folks in the house to prevent her doing any serious mischief, preferred staying with his daughter, and comforting her at a moment when his tender heart prompted him to compassionate her sufferings, and to refrain from whatever might give her a moment's pain.

Annette was so affected by his kindness, that she partook somewhat of an hysteric affection, laughing and crying alternately. She gazed fondly on the benign countenance of her parent, and, in a tone that would have melted the sternest tyrant, anxiously asked, "Do you, indeed, forgive me?"

"Are you not my daughter!" replied Philip; his eye expressing the respect he entertained for those chari-

table precepts incultated by the Saviour of mankind.

Mingling their tears, exchanging fond caresses, and murmuring a thousand benedictions, the father and the child were absorbed in all the blissful sensations of unbounded affection: their happiness was, however, interrupted by the benedictine, who, calling to Philip, stated that Jaqueline, who was to have officiated as chief mourner, refused to proceed with the body, for which the choir, and persons intended to fill the procession, were then waiting.

Annette's countenance changed; her thoughts travelled back to the source of her past sufferings; she drew the bed-clothes over her head, and sobbed—like the mother of departed innocence!

"I will walk as chief mourner!" said Philip, as he descended the stairs.

"Are you acquainted with the ceremonies?" rejoined the monk.

"I know nothing of ceremonies," replied the veteran, "but trust, that the devout effusions of a pious Christian will never be disregarded at the throne of heavenly mercy; where our religion assures us no advocate is needful to render such innocents acceptable!"

"I thought you had been a soldier!" said the priest.

Philip smiled; he took Robert, as usual, by the hand, and observing his disorder enquired the cause. The youth feigned surprise at the question, and requested permission to join in the procession.

"What is the name of the infant?" said the priest.

None present knew: Jaqueline was asked, but she did not deign to give any answer. All were at a stand.

"Who is the father?" said the priest.

This question not only puzzled the whole party, but brought the blood up

into Philip's cheeks, while his eyes fired with indignation.

"He should be the chief mourner," resumed the benedictine.

"He shall!" replied Philip, with emphasis.

The veteran stepped up to his daughter, and asked whether the infant had been baptized?

"Yes!" sobbed the unfortunate girl.

"By what name?"

"Frederic——"

"Frederic—what?" asked the old soldier mildly.

"Pardon me, father! I have made a vow to conceal the parent's name."

It was enough; Philip supplied the rest.

"The name of the child is Frederic Armand, father!"

"FREDERICK VILLAIN!" exclaimed Jaqueline from within: "Are you not ashamed! will you stain the name of

Armand by allowing it to be thus bestowed!"

"The stain shall be removed in due time," said Philip coolly. "Proceed, father; we are trespassing on the punctuality of others."

With a slow pace, the procession quitted the little tenement; and, as the bell announced its approach, was met at the gates of St. Bernard by the choristers, who in low plaintive strains, which occasionally swelled into the majesty of chorus, preceded the little candidate for heavenly joys. An unusual crowd attended the funeral, attracted chiefly by the intelligence, which had rapidly circulated, of the arrival of Philip, and of his performing the conspicuous office of chief mourner.

The veteran was not abashed; he felt that his conduct was guided by the purest of motives, and went through the ceremony with that dignity which overawed

the whisper of defamation, and held him up as an object of admiration to the reasoning few. His appearance was singular; but it was respectable, and the devout manner in which he acquitted himself of the melancholy duty made an awful impression on the spectators.

When the service was concluded in the abbey, and the corpse was deposited in its sacred asylum, Philip, according to the custom of his country, threw the first portion of the covering soil into the grave. It fell upon the coffin; the sound of its fall echoed on the heart of the mourner, who, as the excavation was replenished, sighed heavily; and raising his moistened eyes, in a few words, that trembled on the organs of speech, commended the immaculate soul of Frederic Armand to the protection of his Maker!

A solemn dirge, in which the choristers at times seemed scarcely to breathe, con-

cluded the requiem, and disposed the minds of the auditors to that train of ideas, and of contemplation, suited to the occasion. The mourners returned in silent sorrow to the house of Jaqueline, where the priest immediately visited Annette, and by the powers of his holy eloquence calmed her mind.

Philip having seen that refreshments were served to the company, endeavoured to conciliate the widow, who, though not quite so refractory as before, acquiesced in his wishes with so very indifferent a grace, as rendered the favour of her company by no means an object of exultation. Finding, however, that Philip despised and completely superseded her follies; and that it was in vain for her to continue in that state of opposition, which made every thing at least as unpleasant to herself, as she was obnoxious to the party; she gradually appeared more free and familiar, and by the time the repast was finished,

and the guests were taking their leave, became at least serene, if not tolerably cheerful.

The presence of Robert seemed to be an object of peculiar irritation to the temper of the widow, who did not fail to drop several hints as to his character and past conduct. These made no impression on Philip, who, however, could not help wondering at the strangeness of her insinuations. The youth, utterly unable to form any rational conjecture as to the cause of the malevolence obviously occupying Jaqueline's mind, took his leave, and retired to the inn, where Philip promised to meet him in the evening.

Jaqueline's house could not indeed afford any accommodations even for Philip: it was extremely small, and she had become miserably poor; for during the pregnancy of Annette a variety of incidental expences had absorbed all the

money she could raise, and the poor girl herself had been so disheartened, by the misfortune under which she laboured, that her earnings had ceased.

The arrival of Philip was therefore a most fortunate event; for without his aid the funeral expences would have finished the train of evils, by compelling the widow to sell the little remains of household furniture, and thus render both herself and her niece completely destitute.

Having now the house to themselves, Philip and Jaqueline entered into a very serious conversation as to the cause of Annette's mishap. The widow, it appeared, had encouraged the addresses of a gentleman, about thirty-five years of age, who at times came to Constance from his villa. Where that villa was situated, he never exactly described; he informed them it was in Alsace, that he was the younger brother of an opulent

family, and at the demise of a near relative would come into possession of considerable estates.

The appearance of the suitor, his manners, and many other very interesting points, soon rendered him completely acceptable; whenever he visited the widow, which was always at night, and at very uncertain dates, he was received with such cordiality that, he, in a very short time, seemed to consider her house as his home, and at length obtained the old lady's consent to his receiving that hand which Annette was impatient to bestow.

Under the expectation of their approaching nuptials, the widow relaxed in some measure from her vigilance, and allowed her niece occasionally to walk out with her lover.

This had been frequently repeated, when he came one evening in a close conveyance, and requested that Jaque-

line and Annette would both accompany him to visit an aunt, whom he had prepared to receive them as her intended relations.

As it was only to Ultnau they were to proceed, Jaqueline thought there could be no objection, and the two females, having adorned themselves in their best attire, entered the carriage, which proceeded at a quick pace on the road to that town.

Annette was at all times beautiful, but on this occasion, when her countenance was illumined by love and happiness, her features became peculiarly captivating, and her spirits being exhilarated by the enjoyment of an unusual indulgence, she gave a loose to that ingenuous disposition which in a manner characterized her: she appeared beyond all compare lovely and engaging!

The carriage stopped at the little town of Ultnau, and the party, alighting

from their seats, were conducted into a small apartment, in a house that stood separate from any other, at about two hundred yards distant, and close upon the borders of the lake of Constance.

An elderly lady appeared, to whom Jaqueline and Annette were introduced in the most affectionate manner by the gentleman, who was known to them as Monsieur Letour.

The weather was remarkably clear; it was a fine evening, not a cloud was to be seen, and the moon followed her ordinary course, darting her silver rays on the slightly-ruffled waters, whence they were reflected as by numberless splendid mirrors. The party walked upon the beach, admiring the beauties of the surrounding objects, and at length approaching a boat in which some men were playing at primero, entered into conversation with the

strangers, who appeared to be remarkably civil and obliging.

They invited Monsieur Letour and his companions on board, and offered to take them a little voyage on the lake. Annette had been once in a boat, and was delighted; she readily acquiesced, and nimbly stepped in from a little mound, which was most conveniently situated as an aid.

Jaqueline could not be prevailed upon to accompany; she preferred walking along the border of the lake with her hospitable conductress, but failed not to give her niece full instructions as to sitting still, and keeping her clothes out of the water.

The boat was put off, and, being impelled by six active, robust rowers, was soon round a projecting point, towards which Jaqueline proposed following them. The lady informed her it was impossible,

on account of a rivulet which had its source in the hills behind Ultnau, and inundated some low lands that lay between them and the point round which the boat had proceeded.

The evening passed on without the boat's return; Jaqueline a thousand times visited the beach, and as often in her mind cursed the element, which she now began to mistrust. Her companion expressed infinite surprise, and some alarm as to the cause of her nephew's continued absence. At length, after several hours of most anxious expectation, Jaqueline became so much agitated, that her hostess said she would just step up to a neighbour, and beg him to send a man on horseback along the shore, to ascertain whether the boat was on its way back.

Accordingly, after enjoining Jaqueline to calm her fears, and to assure herself that Annette would soon be safely landed,

the good woman left the house, and went up into Ultnau by the same road they had come to the water-side.

Jaqueline waited with much impatience; but, after more than an hour had passed, without seeing either the boat or the aunt of Monsieur Letour, she thought it was best to follow the latter, and to receive those melancholy tidings, which she doubted not would result from some accident having befallen the vessel.

A servant attended her summons, and was asked regarding the lady of the house: she knew of none,—only her master, a boy, and herself, resided at the auberge.

"Auberge!" exclaimed Jaqueline.

"Auberge!" re-echoed the undaunted Rosette.

"But the lady who was here?" rejoined Jaqueline.

"We know nothing of her; she left

this about an hour or more past, and got into the carriage which brought your party hither."

"But where is Monsieur Letour?" exclaimed Jaqueline in an agony of solicitude.

"Monsieur Letour!"—Rosette smiled, shook her head, and appeared to know more than she chose to repeat at the confessional.

Here Philip interrupted his sister by remarking, that the folks at that same house at Ultnau should be compelled to give some account of themselves.

Jaqueline replied, that she feared no satisfaction could be obtained in that quarter, for that all who were there, at the time alluded to, had long since decamped;—"In fact," said she, "I found it was all a deception from beginning to end."

Philip desired her to proceed in her narrative, whereby it appeared that An-

nette was absent full six months, and was completely given over for lost, when one dark, tempestous night, the street door was beat violently by a person, who repeated the name of the widow in the most plaintive notes.

The latter opened a little casement, and inquired who wanted her, but receiving no answer, she, regardless of the storm, put her head forth, so as just to get a peep over the eaves of the tiles, and saw something resembling a human figure lying against the door.

Jaqueline's mind misgave her; she hoped to find her lost niece, but feared the poor creature was dead. She, however, huddled on a few clothes, and managed to get safely down stairs, and without delay opened the door.

It was indeed Annette who had called, and, in the last moments of retiring sense, had beat her head against the shutter. The girl's limbs were frozen, and in

a few minutes more, in all probability, her heart must have ceased to beat. With much difficulty Jaqueline drew her into the parlour, where leaving her for a moment, she called up her neighbour the surgeon, by whose aid Annette was gradually restored.

But the state in which she appeared was productive of the most poignant distress; she was reduced to a skeleton, her complexion was sallow, her intellects seemed at times deranged, and she was evidently pregnant.

It was some time before she could sufficiently collect her spirits to give any account of what had happened during her absence. Her written narrative was in the following words.

THE NARRATIVE OF ANNETTE ARMAND.

"So soon as the boat had passed round the projecting point, which concealed it from your sight, the course was suddenly

changed, and the rowers exerted themselves in the most surprising manner to reach the upper part of the lake. Monsieur Letour kept me in conversation, and amused me so well with various humorous anecdotes and interesting descriptions, that the time passed swiftly.

"In answer to my remonstrances as to the distance to which he was taking me, he assured me the boat would soon enter a river, that would conduct me within half a mile of the house in which I had left you.

"Not thinking there could be any occasion for deception, I allowed myself to be lulled into an opinion of my security; at least I hoped no harm would happen: all my uneasiness was for you, my dear aunt, but I compromised for the pleasure you would receive in seeing me return, as it were by surprise.

"The boat at length entered a rapid being brought to the right

bank, all but one of the rowers jumped ashore; and, by means of a rope, pulled us up for at least two miles. They stopped at a little hut which stood on the bank, and whistling in a peculiar shrill tone, were answered in the same manner by some persons in the hut.

"Judge my surprise when I saw at least forty men come forth, whose countenances, and habits, exclusive of their uncouth manners, at once convinced me of the device by which I had been decoyed from your affectionate protection.

"Words cannot describe my feelings at that time: I fell senseless in the boat, and know not what passed until I found myself on a small bed coarsely furnished, in a dismal cell, with only a small grated window in one corner, a lamp hanging from the vaulted roof, and an old woman of the most antique appearance sitting on a block of stone at my side.

"Seeing me recover, the dame arose,

and went to a door, which was bolted above and below, and called for Stephano. A distant voice seemed to reply to her summons, and I heard footsteps cautiously approach. After some low whisperings, the door was again closed and secured. The careful manner in which that was done, made me reflect as to the cause for so much precaution. I partly raised myself on the bed, and took a hasty view of the objects before me; but my head was so painful, that it was impossible for me to remain in that posture. I fell back, and was for a while lost in confused conjectures regarding the events of the night.

"I was aroused from my melancholy reflections by a gentle tapping at the door. The dame arose, and going towards it with a small torch which she lighted for the occasion, enquired who was there; no answer was given, but some instrument was drawn, in a scratch-

ingmanner, on the other side of the boards as a signal. It was understood, and the bolts were a second time drawn back.

"There now entered an elderly man of a short, fat make, who was habited differently from those I had seen the preceding night. He appeared to be a Frenchman: after seating himself on the side of the bed, he addressed me in that language, at the same time feeling my pulse. His countenance was strongly indicative of pleasure, whence I concluded he was satisfied with the change which must have taken place in my state of health.

"I had not the power to thank him for his kind offices, for my whole frame was completely deranged, nor had I strength sufficient to express many things which I would willingly have stated; much less to ask a number of questions that crowded into my mind. Once I endeavoured to speak, but it was with such

difficulty, that I willingly obeyed the injunctions given me to remain quiet.

"Notwithstanding the appearance of dame Alice, my nurse, I found her to possess a very kind heart, and that on the whole her manners were not unpolished. She attended me with the utmost care, and seemed studious to anticipate all my wants.

"When, however, I touched upon the subject of my misfortune, and expressed a desire to be informed as to the intention of those who had deprived me of liberty, the poor soul only answered me with a heavy sigh, and a shake of the head, which caused in me the greatest apprehension.

"At times, when the obtruding tear, that in spite of my conscious innocence and natural fortitude, stole down my cheek, revealed the state of my thoughts, the kind Alice would abruptly turn away, and, as if ashamed to betray her weak-

ness, would steal her hand upwards to remove those types of sympathy which stamped the softness of her nature on her venerable features.

"Monsieur Vaison, the doctor, contributed as much by his manner, as by his skill, towards my recovery. He repeatedly regretted during the first four or five days, the necessity for my remaining in that uncomfortable dungeon, both on account of its situation, and because it evidently retarded my restoration to health.

"No other person was allowed to enter the cell, and every thing indicated, that, though some apprehensions might be entertained of my attempt to escape, more were suspected of a rescue. However, all my questions were evaded, and a recommendation to be patient was all the satisfaction I could obtain.

"When I was able to quit my bed, I went with the aid of Alice to the window; eager to indulge my eyes with a survey

of the surrounding scene, and, if possible, to form some conjecture as to the situation of my prison. But, with the exception of that gleam of happiness which enlivened me as I once more breathed the fresher air through the casement, which Alice had opened, and as I once more beheld the face of nature, though it was then veiled in deep snow, my expectations were completely baulked.

"The distant view consisted of immense mountains, which, in a thousand fantastic shapes, reared their lofty heads above the deep forests that clothed their bases; while the nearer portion of the scene was formed of broken craggs, and wild shrubbery; fully convincing me, that I was in some unfrequented part of the country.

"About six days had passed in this manner, during which I was gradually gaining strength, though my spirits remained extremely low, when I was

awaked one morning early by a violent tumult in the long passage that led to my cell. The arched roof echoed with the confusion of contesting voices, and the clash of arms was plainly distinguishable.

"The noise grew louder as it approached the door, where the struggle seemed to be redoubled. At times I thought the voice of Letour reached my ears; a circumstance which, though reflection taught me afterwards to consider it a most fallacious hope, cheered me with the expectation of seeing, and obtaining some explanation, if not some indulgence, from the man to whose art I had become a helpless dupe.

"I stood as it were on the tip-toe of hope, close to the door, my ears all attention to every sound, and even my eyes steadfastly directed towards the scene of disorder, the good Alice at my side, when suddenly the discharge of a

pistol, of which the report almost stunned me, seemed to terminate the horrid struggle.

" A deep groan, and the sound of footsteps precipitately retiring, convinced me, that either my deliverance was effected; or, that my misfortune was confirmed.

" With difficulty I retreated to my bed; the agitation then prevalent throughout my frame, alarmed my nurse, who seeing, by the faint rays of light that entered through the casement, that I had entirely lost the appearance of life, would willingly have gone forth to summon the worthy Vaison; but the uncertainty she, as well as myself, was under in regard to both the cause and the issue of the contest, deterred her from quitting the cell.

" By means of a pitcher of water, that stood on a shelf in the corner next to the window, and by chafing my temples, the good woman, after much difficulty, succeeded in recalling my scattered senses.

Scarcely, however, had my eyes began to distinguish the surrounding objects, and my memory to supply some recollection of the unaccountable event of the day, when the well-known sound of Monsieur Vaison's voice in the passage occasioned it's usual pleasing sensation.—It was a comfort!

"I would have flown to the door, but the prudent Alice restrained me; she went towards it, for the purpose of being in readiness whenever the appropriate signal should be made. I followed as well as my weakness permitted, in spite of the earnest indications, expressed by silent signals, of my nurse's disapprobation.

"'Is he dead?'

"'Not quite,' answered the doctor, 'but he cannot recover!'

"'Take him up;' rejoined the person who spoke first, in a commanding tone, 'bear him to the armoury.'

"The succeeding sounds, which seemed to indicate obedience to the mandate, were occasionally interrupted by the groans of the wounded person: my heart was wrung with compassion, even for him who I considered it possible might be my greatest enemy; but when I heard my own name pronounced by the well-known voice of the dying Letour, a mist overcast my eyes, while a thousand melancholy fancies overwhelmed my imagination.

"A flood of tears relieved me from this painful situation, and induced a train of reflections as to the probable consequences of the sanguinary contest. Retiring to my bed, I fell into a sound sleep, from which I was not disturbed until the sun was seen retiring behind the mountains that lay before my casement; nor should I, perhaps, have resigned the ease I enjoyed as I lay reclined, had not the sound of the withdrawing bolts encou-

raged the hope of seeing Monsieur Vaison.

" A parley at the door, however, checked that hope; my nurse, in a whisper, said I was fast asleep. 'Then I'll come again by and by,' answered the person with whom she was conversing. He was about to retire, when, raising myself on my side, I inquired what was the matter.

" Alice, hearing me speak, said, 'you may come in;' at the same time the smile on her aged countenance gave me to understand, that my expectations were about to be realized.

" As she opened the door more widely, the worthy Vaison entered. There appeared a certain expression of satisfaction on his features, which insensibly communicated a cordial to my heart, and dispelled the various unwelcome suggestions which had completely gained an ascendancy over my desponding mind.

" I inquired as to the cause of the disturbance in the passage: he told me I

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should soon know every thing, but that, as he could not speak positively of certain points, he would refrain from explanation at that moment, lest his information might not prove so satisfactory as he had reason to conclude it would be. 'In the mean while,' said the good man, 'be comforted; for you may assure yourself matters cannot prove worse than they would have been had your enemy lived.'

"'What,' exclaimed I, 'is Letour dead?'—'The person you knew by that name is dead!'—

"'But, doctor—how—'

"'Stop, Annette, you will know all in due time. I came to cheer you with the hope of approaching amelioration, at least as to your situation and comforts; I must now return to the refectory, where, in all probability, I shall be better informed as to what is intended regarding you.'

"'Pray, doctor, speed to inform me of whatever may be determined.'

" ' I will.'—

" The night approached, and I began to fear the doctor would not return. Alice did all in her power to keep up my spirits, which did not, however, keep pace with her kind endeavours. We sat down to a little supper, and endeavoured to divert our thoughts from the mortifying disappointment under which I laboured.

" We were retiring to rest, when our attention was suddenly attracted by the noise of persons laughing in the passage: the sound approached, and in a few moments the door was scratched as was usually done by Stephano: Alice arose, and opened it without hesitation.

" It was not Stephano that had given the signal, but a well-looking man, seemingly near forty years of age: there was something handsome in his countenance, and his deportment and manner were graceful—but there appeared a certain mixture of savage hauteur, and I thought

the vicissitudes of fortune were strongly marked on his elevated brow.

" He looked at me with attention, and not without some surprise. His eyes glistened, and his features suddenly changed into the most expressive mildness. He approached in a respectful manner, and taking me by the hand, said, 'Allow me, madam, to relieve you from this unhappy condition, and to conduct you to apartments where I trust you will find every comfort our means afford.'

" We were about to quit the dungeon when the doctor appeared, and suggested the propriety of preparing me for the change of situation; observing, that a sudden exposure to the cold might prove injurious to my health. The stranger acquiesced in the proposal, and ordered the door and window to be thrown open.

" After sitting a while in that increased current of air, my deliverer, for such he appeared to be, took off a large cloak

which completely covered him, and throwing it over my shoulders, proposed removing from the cell. It may readily be supposed I did not wait for the repetition of so acceptable an invitation; resting on my worthy friend Vaison, whose eyes expressed the joy he felt, and supported on the other side by the stranger, I hastened from the detested dungeon, with more agility than Alice expected to witness.

"I was, indeed, extremely emaciated, and more than once was compelled to trespass on the indulgence of my conductor, while I paused to recover my breath, and to ease my aching limbs.

"At those moments I cast my eyes around, in the endeavour to form some opinion as to the place in which I had been immured. But I could perceive no clue whereby it would be possible for me to unravel the mystery. We proceeded through a dark vaulted passage, seemingly excavated, into which a dim light

was admitted, at irregular distances, through little crevices, that were obviously natural fissures in the rock.

" Here and there, a small lamp served but to evince the dull obscurity of the numerous offsets which seemed to lead to subterranean apartments. These glimmering lights were the beacons whereby our course was guided; indeed that was their only use; for as to displaying even the colour of the wall, or the formation of the floor, that did not in the least accord either with the weakness of their powers, or the distances at which they were mutually removed.

" After passing along this dreary outlet for a considerable time, and winding among the mazes of various intricate ramifications, we came to a small opening surrounded on all sides by tremendous precipices, which seemed to defy all access, and to be the limits of human research.

"There were various little mounds, evidently sepulchral, and one opening in the obdurate soil seemed to have been but recently made.—As my eye lighted upon the loose fragments of gravelly rock thrown up around it's margin, an involuntary sigh escaped me: my limbs trembled, and a chilly dew sat upon my forehead.

"My soul whispered—'It is for Letour!—that Letour who once was the object of my affections, and who now has met the punishment of his villainy!'"

"Ah!" exclaimed Philip, "the ruffian has escaped me—but—the vengeance of heavenly justice overtook him!—Proceed, Jaqueline—Poor Annette!"

The veteran took out his *mouchoir*, while the widow proceeded with the narrative as follows:

"vailed, which rendered at the sight of the glimmer lamp, which glimmered upon the glassy surface which we were advancing walk,

for the winter was uncommonly early, and the area was frozen completely and scattered with innumerable isicles, which, being broken by the impetuous winds at all times prevailing in that quarter, and particularly at that season, were lying in every direction, and rendered the way dangerous, that I must inevitably have sunk under their joint effects, but for the firm support of my conductors.

"I succeeded in getting across this mournful vale, and was led, as before, through a dark aisle for about a hundred yards, when, suddenly turning to the right, I found myself at a strong iron grate: close by it, there was a little chamber scooped out of the rock, in which two men, armed at all points, and habited somewhat like chasseurs, were sitting over a small charcoal fire, the [illegible]es of which, though [illegible] seemed to defy all [illegible]e extremand to be the limits of hu[illegible]

"[illegible]ch. [illegible]y instantly

arose, and in a respectful manner approached the barrier for the purpose of opening it. While they were thus employed, the light enabled me to observe that the place in which they were sitting was furnished with abundance of arms, and that a cannon pointed through a small aperture towards the exterior, seemingly in that direction towards which we were proceeding.

"The heavy grate opened outwards, and was closed in perfect silence after we had passed into a narrow lane, of which the sides were perpendicular, and at least thirty feet in height: they were scarped from a beautiful species of blue and red granite, that gave a sombre appearance to the path; which was composed of fragments from the same rock.

"The cold was intense, and darkness prevailed, which rendered the sight of another lamp, which glimmered within a passage to which we were advancing, ex-

tremely pleasing. As the open space was short, we were soon under the welcome shelter, and within the influence of the diverging rays.

"The doctor preceded us hastily, and applying his mouth to a small aperture in the wall, forcibly repeated some words, which the tube, of which it was one of the extremities, conveyed to the watch stationed at a second barrier, where after two or three abrupt turns we arrived.

"A draw-bridge was lowered down, and we passed into a vaulted tunnel, at least fifty feet in diameter, from whose roof various lights were suspended, which perfectly exhibited the whole interior, and had such an effect upon my vision, that it was with some difficulty my eye could meet the vivid effects of their brilliancy.

"Even in this part, however, there appeared to be a constant attention to

safety; vigilance seemed to preside over all circumstances of whatever description, while a military air and military apparatus, seemed to characterise alike the living and the inanimate parts of the scene.

"The stranger touched a bell, when instantly a part of the wall on our left swung round on its centre, and we entered a very elegant apartment, in which was a table furnished with a variety of the most delicate confections, together with a complete service of superb Dresden. The floor was covered with a handsome carpet; musical instruments were scattered promiscuously on a harpsichord; two costly pier glasses stood at opposite ends of the apartment; and a variety of pictures, by the first masters, covered the walls.

"The surprise I experienced on viewing the splendid scene, was yet increased on seeing a middle-aged lady enter from

an adjoining chamber, whose appearance at once established her to appertain to the superior circles of society.

"It was Madame Vaison! She advanced towards me with an affability which at once secured my confidence and won my heart: we sat together on a sopha placed near to a large charcoal fire, and entered into conversation upon general subjects.

"Finding she did not speak of my situation, I refrained from making any enquiry or complaint; trusting, as the case now bore a very different aspect, it would not be long ere I should receive every information on the various points that related to my welfare.

"We spent the evening together, and after partaking of a supper, served in an excellent stile, Madame Vaison, seeing me extremely tired, and judging that I stood in need of repose, took a little silver candlestick, and leading me through her

bedchamber into a small apartment where there was a little bed, pointed out to me the various contents of a handsome chest of drawers, which she said were intended for my use.

"After many kind assurances of attention and support, she retired; saying, that I need not hurry myself to rise in the morning, as the governor seldom breakfasted before ten o'clock.

"When Madame Vaison was gone, I examined the chamber very minutely: the window was closed with a shutter, that was firmly secured: it was indeed very small, and the wall appeared to be immensely strong. The door by which I had entered had many fastenings, all which I applied properly.

"There was another door in a corner of the chamber: I opened it, and found a spacious closet, with many shelves arranged all around; they were filled with pieces of linen, broadcloths, and every

variety of fabrics suited to the making of apparel for both sexes.

"Having examined every particular, and satisfied myself there was no secret opening whence I might be surprised during the night, after commending myself to the protection of Heaven, I got into a bed very different from that on which I had passed so many sorrowful nights.

"Overpowered with fatigue and anxiety, my weary eyes soon closed; in vain did my busy thoughts endeavour to chase away that sweet oblivion which nature summoned to my relief. I slept soundly, and to so late an hour, that the doctor and his lady were in no danger of being incommoded by the performance of my matin prayers.

"My kind neighbours did not disturb me; they arose at their usual hour, and judging from my silence that I was not awake, amused themselves for a while,

determining to wait breakfast until I should join them.

"On first opening my eyes, some surprise and confusion attended; but the recollection of that agreeable reverse which had taken place the preceding evening, soon dispelled every invading doubt: I had preserved my little watch, the inestimable memorial of my ever dear mother (Philip sighed—'Excellent Annette!'), and by the aid of a narrow crevice in the shutter, through which the light struck upon my curtains, perceived it was past the hour noticed to me by Madame Vaison.

"In a moment I was out of bed, and having put on such clothes as I could find, for my chamber was, with the above exception, completely dark, made a shift to unfasten the shutter.

"I expected not only light, but a view of the surrounding country: in the latter, however, I was deceived; for the

window was far within a long irregular opening, which pointed upwards, and afforded me no prospect of any object on earth. The sky was all I could discern.

" Disregarding every thing but the desire to prove agreeable to my new friends, I hastened to avail myself of the supply of linen contained in the drawers, and in a few minutes was ready to quit my chamber. Just, however, as I was about to withdraw the fastenings wherewith the door had been secured, Madame Vaison, hearing me at the drawers, tapped, and begged to be admitted.

" She would have waived the tribute of thanks which my grateful heart offered in behalf of the object of her compassion, and, after closing the door, in a whisper briefly said, ' You must shut your eyes, and your ears, to all you may chance to see, or to hear: your future welfare will rest entirely on your own prudence and resolution: depend on

Monsieur Vaison and myself as your firm friends, and assure yourself that, whenever opportunity may offer you shall be benefited by our aid. At present say not a word.'

" I would have thanked her for such kind intentions, but a significant turn of the eye, and her finger laid upon my lips, gave me to understand that I was already trespassing on her injunctions: we therefore left my apartment, and changing the subject to general questions, regarding how I rested, &c. entered the parlour in which we had passed the preceding evening.

" Monsieur Vaison arose from his seat, and with the utmost politeness handed me to a chair near the fire. His demeanour was friendly in the extreme, and fully assured me that he was worthy my utmost confidence. Alice came for the purpose of inquiring how I had rested: I embraced her with all the warmth of

filial affection: she wept, my eyes caught the infection, and it was with difficulty I recovered myself sufficiently to thank the stranger, who now entered and seated himself at the breakfast table, for his kindness.

"He seemed absorbed in thought, though I frequently found his attention obviously occupied in the contemplation of my features. This circumstance affected me greatly; though I knew not why.

"The stranger did not remain a moment after the breakfast things were removed; but, beckoning to the doctor, he retired into a small apartment, the door of which was so artfully concealed, that, until opened on this occasion, it had entirely escaped my notice. The manner in which the room received its light was equally curious: there was no regular window, but a variety of openings in the arched roof, each of which was fitted with

a frame made of iron, very strong, and so close that not even a cat could have made its way through: within the iron bars were glazed frames to keep out the cold.

"Notwithstanding this apparently rude construction, which was, however, the result of great caution and ingenuity, the interior was very uniform in regard to its ornaments: each window, or crevice, stood in a compartment, handsomely decorated, and so contrived that it appeared to occupy such a situation as did not interrupt the general plan of its division.

"While I was admiring the singular disposition of the whole, Madame Vaison had seated herself at the harpsichord, of which she was a perfect mistress, and soon called my attention by some airs which, though new to me, spoke to the heart, and excited various passions according to their several characters.

"She played some little lively dancing

tunes, which did not, however, set my feet in motion, though I was not insensible to their gaiety. She turned over the leaves of a manuscript collection, touching occasionally upon such as she thought would please. In general their effect was not proportioned to her wishes; but when she began the well known air,

> 'Quand reverai je, dans un jour,
> Tous les objets de mon amour?'

my heart suddenly became burthened, I was convulsed with agitation, and burst into tears!

"At this instant an attendant opened the door from the great gallery; he looked around, and was about to retire, when Madame asked what he wanted. 'Nothing more than to announce the arrival of father Anselmo.'

"'You had better desire him to walk in; the governor is in the library, and will be glad to see him.'

"In a few minutes the same door was again turned on its pivot, and a monk of a most prepossessing appearance entered the parlour. His meekness, placidity, and silver locks, instantly prepossessed me in his favour, and made me resolve, if possible, to avail myself of his aid towards making my escape, in case I should find the least cause to suspect the sincerity, or the power, of the doctor and his lady.

"Father Anselmo affected not to notice me, but I clearly perceived he took an interest of some kind in my concerns; for whenever my eyes were averted from him, I observed, by means of one of the pier glasses, that he used many significant signs of enquiry, which Madame Vaison appeared anxious to discourage.

"The servant returned with a small tray, on which were refreshments of various kinds; the monk crossed himself

devoutly, and, after repeating a short benediction over the viands, attacked them with an appetite such as evinced an excellent state of health.

" Seeing the door of the library open, and the governor coming forth followed by the doctor, father Anselmo rose from his seat, and advancing towards the former, gave him his blessing with uncommon fervency: he embraced him, and appeared to be extremely pleased at the meeting.

" ' You have had a long ride, father!'

" ' Yes, but the occasion was interesting,' replied the monk.

" ' You received my letter in good time?'

" ' Not until the bell was ringing for vespers.'

" ' Indeed! why Stephen was dispatched the moment it happened;—I suppose he told you the particulars?'

"'I could not commune with him until this morning: on our way hither he gave me to understand the cause.'

"The monk, as he said this, looked at me in a manner fully conveying his meaning; which evidently had some reference to my situation. I felt a secret hope that some explanation would follow; but a nod from the governor occasioned Madame Vaison to withdraw to her apartment, whither she led me without delay.

"'They are going to inter your late persecutor,' said Madame Vaison; 'we shall not be expected to attend the funeral, but I think you would not be displeased with a walk to a part of the fortress, whence you may have a view of the procession.'

"I made no objection, but covering myself up in a very handsome cloak, and putting on a pair of stout shoes, with which my friend furnished me, accom-

panied her through the parlour, which we found vacated: all was silence.

"We entered the great gallery, and turning short up a flight of steps arrived at a little landing place, which was lighted by a fissure, similar to those in the parlour. Here several passages branched off, all terminated by broad ladders, that were affixed at their upper ends to strong hinges, and could be raised at pleasure, like the drawbridge in the passage below.

"I was astonished at the various contrivances I beheld, and at the immense extent of the excavations; for I now had the opportunity of ascertaining that the whole consisted of one immense rock.

"There were in various parts small round holes, cut completely through, for the purpose of admitting the mouths of several large cannons, placed in appropriate situations. Over these were centries, who had little chambers cut out of the rock close to their posts, and we gene-

rally had to announce ourselves through the various tubes, or channels of sound made in the walls, before the barriers, or drawbridges, which we always found behind sharp turns in the passage, were ready for us to pass them.

" Nothing could exceed my surprise and admiration at finding myself thus situated! The more I saw, the more I was bewildered as to the locality of the fortress, and in regard to its use; for wherever I could obtain a view of the adjacent country, nothing could be seen but stupendous precipices, and woods that appeared perfectly impenetrable.

" Madame Vaison smiled at my various artless questions, to all which she answered in vague terms, such as served rather to raise, than to depress, my curiosity: I clearly perceived she had something to impart, but that she feared to reveal her thoughts, before she should have some in-

sight into my character. In fact, she did not know whether I could be trusted.

"This idea, which experience afterwards proved to be perfectly correct, urged me to devote myself entirely to her service, and to accommodate myself in every respect to her disposition: for I foresaw there was no chance of obtaining my liberty by any stratagem, of which the whole execution rested with myself.

"All around me indicated that a regular, and systematic, controul pervaded every part of the fortress; that, doubtless, instructions were very generally given as to my detention; and, that not even the most accurate knowledge of the labyrinth in which I was involved, could be of the smallest avail unaided by collusion, or by some well-planned scheme in which many must be interested.

"'Alas!' thought I, 'without money,

without the means of reward, without one tried friend to aid, how shall poor Annette overcome the host of difficulties which oppose her flight!'

"We had now arrived at the termination of the upper passage, that opened upon a long narrow ridge of rocks, along which only one could walk. I followed my conductress, though not without much apprehension; for the wind whistled among the rough borders which concealed the abruptness of the declivity, and were in some measure a safeguard against accident: at intervals, the want of such a screen, presented to our view those irregular masses of stone which probably concealed the galleries through which we had passed, and contributed to the safety, and secrecy, of their numerous inhabitants.

"The ridge did not extend more than two hundred yards; we then ascended an irregular cliff, by means of a small

circular stair-case, at the top of which we found the usual precautions of a draw-bridge, barrier, cannon, and about half a dozen guards.

"We again proceeded along a passage, that was both low and narrow, and after passing another post, similar to that at the entrance, descended a long slope into an open area, where, to my utter astonishment, I beheld at least four hundred men, drawn up in three ranks, with persons who appeared to be their officers standing, at equal distances, in a line along their front.

"The whole were regularly habited and armed; they were motionless and silent; but there was a something in their individual appearance that made me shudder. I instinctively laid hold so firmly of Madame's arm, that she immediately perceived my alarm, and assured me I was in perfect safety: it was, however, with extreme reluctance that I advanced

towards the opposite side of the area, where we perceived the governor, the doctor, and the monk in close conference.

"'May I venture to ask what troops these are?'

"'They are a part of the garrison,' answered Madame.

"'Are they in the service of the Cantons?'

"'No, my dear; they serve the governor!'

"'But who does the governor serve?'

"Madame smiled, but made no reply.

"I looked around in every direction; thinking I should be able to discover some remote habitation, or some conspicuous mountain, that might afford me the pretext for another query, as to the part of the country we were in; not that I anticipated any more information than had resulted from those already stated; but wherever I cast my

eye, nothing presented but piles of rock, whose summits were lost in mist; while the few apparently level spots, that lay interspersed at their feet, were covered with wilderness, or with sheets of ice.

"I sighed heavily; I felt oppressed by the uncertainty of my fate, and was ready to burst into tears, when suddenly the swell of harmony, proceeding from a deep chasm that lay beneath the eastern side of the area on which we were standing, attracted my attention, and contributed to soothe my mind.

"The doctor, having quitted the governor and father Anselmo, who now advanced towards the right of the battalion, approached us, and taking me by the hand, led us to a part, whence looking down over a narrow ledge, which served as a parapet, to my great surprise I perceived the burial-place through which we had passed the day before, in our way from my dungeon.

"The body of Letour lay on a bier covered with black: it was surrounded by a party of the garrison, who, divested of their arms, chaunted the *Gloria Patri* in the most touching strains.

"The chorus ceased, and the performers arranged themselves on one side of the grave; which seemed to have been dug with great labour into the solid rock."

"Turning towards the parade, I perceived the whole corps in motion. Father Anselmo preceded them, bearing a magnificent ritual spread open, on which lay a crucifix apparently of solid gold. The governor was immediately behind, and bore a white wand tipped with the same metal: the rest followed singly along a winding passage that led among the rocks, at times disappearing, and again coming forth in the most unexpected parts.

"At length, the whole vanished from my sight, and for a while were hidden

from my keenest research. The music again attracted my attention; when looking over into the burial-place I observed the procession slowly entering, and arranging themselves in perfect silence, and with equal order.

"The agitation I felt on this occasion cannot be imagined: I receded from the parapet, and, while the service was performing, walked towards the arched way by which we had come to the parade. I would willingly have retired to my chamber, but Madame Vaison detained me under the assurance that the ceremony would soon be over, and that she would then accompany me to another part of the garrison.

"The renewal of the solemn music confirmed her assertion; we accordingly followed the same track by which the procession had descended, and after various windings found ourselves in the long dark passage leading to the dungeon.

"'Should you be able to find your way back to the parlour?'

"'Really, Madame I fear not; but I hope soon to acquire a perfect acquaintance with all the meanderings of these gloomy excavations.'

"'It is very proper you should,' said Madame, with a significant look; 'it may at some time hence prove of eminent service.'

"'At present, I should soon be lost.'

"'That you need never fear, Annette; for there are plenty who would soon find you.'

"This latter speech in some measure embarrassed me; though I clearly understood that all my steps were watched: I therefore resolved to act in every instance openly, and to let my observations remain within my own heart, thereby to throw even the doctor and his lady off their guard.

"We had no sooner reached the pas-

sage above described, than Madame, taking me by the hand, desired me to follow very close, as the total want of light in one part might else subject me to err; there being three passages, which could only be distinguished by feeling along particular grooves the whole length of their walls.

" ' Observe,' said she, ' there is a deep groove about the height of your shoulder; keep your hand in it, and you cannot fail to be right; now we are come to a corner, where you may feel two smaller grooves close together—that is not your way—cross over and you will find the single groove again—so, that is right.'

" ' Pray, Madame, where does the double groove lead to?'

" ' That is the west passage by which you was brought in from ————'

" ' From where?' said I eagerly.

" ' From Constance.'

" Fool that I was! possibly, by allowing

her to have proceeded with the description, she might have divulged some secret to me of importance.

" ' I suppose, Madame, you know your way to every part of the fortress?'

" ' Certainly, my dear.'

" ' No doubt you can instruct me fully?'

" ' Certainly, my dear.'

" ' I think if I were so perfectly acquainted with all these passages, I should soon find my way out.'

" ' Many years of experience have painfully convinced me to the contrary, my dear; but—the time may—hush, I hear footsteps following.'

" She pressed my hand, and hurried forwards, without speaking, until we arrived at a small crevice that gave light to a landing place, from which we descended by a draw-ladder into a neat kitchen, where at least a dozen men were employed in preparing dinner for their comrades. There was a degree of

cleanliness and of regularity in every part that were peculiarly pleasing.

"'I observe, Madame, you all use charcoal here.'

"'Yes, my dear; it makes so little smoke.'

"The answer did not then appear satisfactory, but afterwards was fully explained.

"Madame, observing I was thoughtful, led me forwards through a little open passage, on each side of which were small alleys cut into the rock, and from them several branches seemed to diverge into various directions.

"'These are the stables in which the governor keeps the horses belonging to his troop.'

"'This seems to be a strange place for a person to keep horses, Madame. I suppose there can be very little occasion for any, at least for more than two, or three, just to ride out for an airing, or to carry a basket to market?'

"Madame smiled.—'You will know more of this hereafter; but come, we have much to see, and dinner will be ready; so let us move on.'

"We now entered a spacious arched hall, in which were several windows similar to what I have already described: the walls were almost covered with arms of various kinds, and at the four sides were as many doors, each guarded by a centinel. It was the armoury.

"My soul shrunk within me at the recollection of Letour having been carried to it, when he lay wounded near the door of the dungeon. I involuntarily pressed toward the opening through which I thought we were to proceed, but was checked by Madame, who told me that was the passage leading to the hospital, which was not a fit place for me to visit.

"We turned into another direction, and, passing sharp round a corner, crossed a deep chasm by means of some boards laid across. I trembled as they vibrated

under me, but the resolution I had formed of seeing all I could, so that in time my escape might be effected, added to my natural fortitude and flow of spirits, supported me on this occasion, and made Madame judge that I was not easily terrified. Perhaps hope flattered me, but I thought she felt some satisfaction in witnessing my apparent firmness.

"We now turned back into the original direction, and ascended a very long flight of steps, partly cut in the rock, and partly of ladders on hinges, fixed at their lower ends, so as to leave the gaps made by drawing them up, all on their exterior sides. The usual precautions of a tube, drawbridge, barrier and cannon, now warned me that we were about to enter some open space.

"Nor was I deceived; for after again desending about fifty steps, and crossing another chasm of at least twenty feet broad, by means of several planks laid close together, and furnished on one side

with a slight hand rail, we entered a neat little area, in which we found a tennis court cut out of an immense black rock. It was so very much hemmed in, by large craggs that stood close all around, that it was impossible to see any object beyond them.

"Passing through the area, we ascended among the cliffs by a most difficult path, so narrow that Madame could scarcely pass; however, at the expence of some parts of her dress, she managed to squeeze through, and to conduct me to a spot far more lofty than any we had yet visited. I was completely tired, and sat down; my conductress followed my example, and asked my opinion as to what I had seen.

"It was natural for me to express my surprise, and my wonder as to the object of such a fortress, in a part which, from all I could judge, was exempted from the incursions of enemies. The invariable

attention to seclusion and secrecy, in every instance conspicuous, absolutely confounded, and left me in perfect amazement.

" ' Let us gain that summit, Annette, and you will have a better idea of your situation.'

" She pointed to a towering cliff that seemed to form a promontory in the heavy pile of rocks that surrounded us on three sides: the height to which she purposed conducting me made me doubt my powers of complying with her wishes, but the great object which ever was in my mind, roused me to an effort, far beyond what I thought my strength could crown with success.

" Halting, panting, and almost despairing, I followed her up a pathway similar to that we had just quitted; and, after a variety of intricate windings, which, however, lessened the steepness of the ascent, though they prolonged the

distance considerably, we reached a little open space, beyond which there was not, to appearance, any possibility of proceeding.

"The keen wind, rushing round this promontory, with incredible violence, forced me to sit down under a projecting mass of granite, where there lay several rude stones, that seemed to have fallen from the impending rock.

"Here Madame, desiring me to look back, pointed out the track by which we had ascended; and making me notice several mounds of stone, explained, with some success, the crooked channels excavated under their surfaces, through which we had passed; but as to the cemetery, the parade, the tennis court, &c., they were all hidden from our view.

"However, I began to have some idea of the fortress, especially when she shewed me the several stations we had passed; which I could now, by her instructions,

discern. Each was distinguishable, to those who knew the place, by the muzzles of the cannon pointing through the fissures; though I do not conceive it possible for any one to have discovered them, without such previous intelligence.

"Feeling it extremely cold, I expressed a wish to return.

"'Oh, no! we will not go back;' said Madame.

"'Pray, Madame, do not let us remain in this bleak place.'

"'Come a little this way, Annette, and you will not be in such a hurry to be gone—come, child!'

"I arose, and with much difficulty turned the corner; for the wind blew so strong from the north, that I really thought I should have been frozen to death. My head became giddy with looking down the deep precipices; and, although I was conscious there could be no danger of falling, my alarm was su[illegible]

that I held fast by every thing which seemed by its firmness to assure me of safety.

" ' There, Annette, is something to recompense you for the fatigue you have undergone—look—what think you now!'

" I raised myself on a little step, which seemed to have been made for such a purpose; and looking between two stupendous cliffs, that stood about a yard asunder, beheld a long valley, which at first seemed but a bed of ice, but gradually opening, exhibited the windings of a river; which, in spite of the rigour of the season, rolled in tumultuous surges down the various breaks that lay across it's channel.

" As the prospect receded, and the various objects shewed less distinctly, the scene became more soft, and displayed a country which in the summer months could not fail to captivate. The moun-

tains gradually opened away to the right and left, allowing ranges of a lesser magnitude to appear in some parts of the distance.

"The sun shone bright upon them, and occasioned such a variety of exquisitely delicate hues, as seemed to defy imitation.

"After being lost, for some miles, among the immense woods which clothed the vale, and seemed in places to creep up the little breaks at the feet of the mountains, the river again appeared in a more expanded stream, majestically following its course, and, though now and then partially concealed, at length entering a spacious lake, whose azure waters formed a beautiful contrast with the snow-clad eminences that every where appeared along it's borders.

"I was viewing this welcome and enrapturing scene, with the utmost eagerness, perfectly regardless of the hurricane,

when suddenly, as the sun was obscured by a flitting cloud, a distant steeple caught my eye. The sight occasioned an indescribable sensation; it was the momentary triumph of joy, over solicitude and despair.

"I was about to express my satisfaction, when the sound of voices caused all my pleasing emotions to subside. Madame did not shew any uneasiness.

"'It is the guard, my dear: look to your left, and you will see a gun pointing towards that little hut situated at the foot of yon yellowish mound. That is their station; it is a strong post, and generally from thirty to forty select men occupy it. Those you hear are two centinels, who keep watch upon this cliff, which overlooks every possible approach on this side of the fortress. Time presses now; therefore I will only point out what may be useful for you to know. Observe yon cottage under that little clump of trees;

and that other in the opposite direction. —Do you see them?'

"'I do, Madame.'

"'And do you see a mill about a mile down the valley, on the borders of the Rhine.'

"'Of the Rhine did you say?'

"'Hush! be not so eager, Annette; you will be overheard!—Yes, my dear, it is on the Rhine; whose waters give it motion:—but let us descend; we shall barely be in time for dinner: if we are missed the alarm will be given, and we shall be in disgrace.'

"Madame Vaison's last words made an awful impression, and would have completely dispirited me, had not the prospect I had just beheld raised me to a state of happiness, and of anticipation, not to be easily lowered.

"I made no doubt but the good lady would soon take an opportunity of explaining to me every matter relating to the

cottages, and to the mill; and that I should find in her a firm friend: for, else, why take such pains to shew me the limits, the avenues, and the various stations.

"Seeing me in deep thought, she reminded me of the necessity for our return, and calling to the guard, two of which were seated under the shelter of a narrow peak about fifty yards below us, they immediately entered a little archway, and, in about half a minute, a large stone, which was close at my side, turned round, and discovered a passage into which we entered: the stone was instantly replaced.

"I could not help admiring this contrivance: it seemed like magic, and convinced me that no common genius had contrived so very intricate a hiding place; for such I now began to be convinced it must be.

"For about fifty yards the way was dark and steep; we then came to the

place where the two men were stationed, when one of them applying his mouth to a tube in the rock, we heard a drawbridge lowered: it was passed, and our way now lay through a very long passage, as before, until we came suddenly to an impetuous stream, that ran across with incredible violence, and almost stunned me with it's incessant roar; which, being echoed by the vaults, produced a sound such as I had never heard, and filled me with terror.

"Another drawbridge appeared; I passed it in a state approaching to insensibility; and could scarcely, though supported by my worthy friend, proceed further. After resting a few minutes we again descended; and, at length, found ourselves in the passage with two grooves: it either was, or I thought it, of prodigious extent, but finding we were so near the governor's apartments, my mind be-

came more tranquil, and I felt almost ashamed at having betrayed so much apprehension.

"We perceived a very large table laid in a great hall, which I had not seen before; there were at least fifty covers, and a sideboard set out in a very handsome stile. This room, which was full seventy feet in length, had an arched roof, whence two superb lustres were suspended: light was admitted by three very large windows, apparently to the southward.

"There was a deep chasm in front, under the windows, of about twenty feet broad, down which there seemed to be a flight of steps: the opposite side towered, almost perpendicularly, to a great height; so that the windows could not be seen from any part of the adjacent mountains.

"Here we found the governor, the monk, the doctor, and a great number of the officers assembled. We were receiv-

ed with the utmost politeness, and an attendant was ordered to have the dinner served.

" We retired for a few minutes to adjust our dress, and re-entered the great hall, in which we took our seats near to a large charcoal fire. The governor paid me particular attention, and rallied me a little on the fatigue I felt after my walk. He introduced me to several of the officers, and gave me to understand, that the good father, who had honoured us with his company, was a man of great celebrity, and the ornament of his institution.

" But my mind was already made up on that subject: I felt a certain dread, and could not meet his scrutinizing eye: his presence filled me with indescribable uneasiness, and caused such a confusion in my ideas, that I scarcely knew what I did, or said.

" This was the more distressing, be-

cause he was exactly opposite to me at the table: the governor was to my left, and on my right sat a young officer, who endeavoured, by the most polite attentions, to banish those feelings by which he perceived I was oppressed.

" I had laid hold of the hand of Madame Vaison, and endeavoured to lead her to the seat next to mine; but she quitted me; and, by a significant look, added to a glance of her eye, gave me to understand, that she should act imprudently were my wish gratified.

" The table was covered with a variety of substantial viands, intermixed with many of a more delicate class; and the desert was such as seemed to indicate the season of vintage, rather than the commencement of a severe winter: wines of every kind were produced, and many convivial songs were strenuously supported by a great majority, who appeared to pass the bottle with great alacrity.

" My neighbour did not seem to join

very heartily in the latter part of the recreations, though he sang an ancient Helvetic pastoral with great feeling, and with an effect I scarcely thought it capable to produce.

"There seemed to be something melancholy in his air, and his mind obviously participated in those sombre reflections which, I thought, arose from his situation in life.

"He was about twenty years of age, tall, and rather thin, but well formed, and far from deficient in strength. His countenance was peculiarly striking: his light brown hair flowed in graceful curls over his elevated forehead, while a vivid, yet mild, eye seemed to strengthen the glow on his rosy cheeks: his nose was rather aquiline, his mouth was small, his chin very well proportioned, and his teeth, which resembled pearls, occasionally appeared between lips of coral.

"The governor filled his glass, and

drank 'To the ladies;' on which Madame Vaison arose and gave me a nod: which was welcomed as the hint for retiring.

"The young officer quitted his seat and opened the door for us: I thought, when we were passing him, that his countenance indicated solicitude for my welfare. Perhaps it was imagination: but that imagination was comfortable, and added another ray to the beam of hope which began to cheer my mind!

"'How did you like the company, my dear?'

"Though prepared for the question, I hesitated as to the answer. Madame at once perceived, and relieved me from my embarrassment: she smiled and said, I had not been used to such scenes, therefore in all probability did not greatly enjoy them.

"She was certainly right; but my inquietude in presence of the monk was

the principal cause of my dejection. I asked if he was to make any stay at the fortress?

"'No, he only came to inter Letour, and will probably be back at his convent before the day closes.'

"'Pray, Madame, to what convent does he appertain? Is it to be seen from the fortress?'

"'No! my dear, it is beyond the hills you saw bordering the lake. Ah! I hear the company in confusion! Heavens, what can be the matter!'

"The door opened, and the doctor rushed in; quickly opening a drawer, he hastened back, taking with him a small phial.

"'What is the matter, Vaison?'

"'Stay where you are;' answered the doctor, as he closed the door after him.

"The noise increased, but seemed to be retiring from the great hall; only

a few voices were heard, and those faint and hurried. In a short time all was hushed, and Madame ventured to open the door. She looked out, but suddenly withdrew, and with difficulty reached a chair before she fainted.

" I was alarmed, and knew not what to do: my tears flowed over the worthy lady, whom I supported in my arms, and endeavoured to recover.

" In this state we were left to ourselves for a few minutes, when the doctor suddenly returned: finding the door open, he was about to chide us for our improper curiosity, when seeing the condition of his lady he appeared greatly agitated.

" He could not stay to breathe a vein; but having supplied himself with some bandages he had come for, put a small bottle into my hand, desiring me to apply it to her nose, and to rub a little of

its contents, somewhat diluted, on her temples.

"My endeavours were not fruitless: Madame recovered gradually, and retired to her bed. She asked me a variety of questions relating to the uproar, and particularly respecting 'the blood.'

"The word struck me with horror! I enquired what she meant.

"'Look out, and you will see!'

"My resolution was not equal to my desire for information, and the fear of being alarmed by some horrid object, withheld me from even venturing towards the door. A thousand fancies rushed upon my mind, and I felt so much interest for the young officer, that nothing could divest me of the belief of some accident having happened to him.

"'I feared as much,' said Madame, in great agony of mind; the tears rolling

down her cheeks; 'Ah! that villainous monk!'

"'Monk, my dear Madame! what do you mean?'

"Madame Vaison lay absorbed in thought; her countenance varied frequently: at times she gave way to grief; then her brows would knit, and her eyes flash, as though meditating some desperate revenge; again she would appear somewhat tranquil, apparently listening to remote sounds.

"Ignorant of the circumstances which moved the various passions so strongly depicted in her features, it was impossible for me to offer any opinions, or to use any but the most common-place consolations. The manner in which she named the monk, confirmed the opinion I had entertained of him, and made me extremely curious to be acquainted with the particulars of his history: but the moment did not favour my curiosity,

and I refrained from a subject which it was obvious would agitate the feelings of my friend.

"A tap at the door called my attention; it was the faithful Alice, who had been sent by Monsieur Vaison to attend upon his lady.

"The good creature trembled from head to foot, and, on entering the apartment, went to the bed as speedily as her aged limbs could bear her: seeing that Madame was restored to her senses, she fell on her knees, and, crossing herself at times, repeated her thanks to the Almighty with true piety, and the most marked emphasis.

"'Ah! my dear Madame, I am so happy to see you! there have been such doings! Bless me, what a man that—but God forgive him, and send him true repentance!'

"'What has been the matter, Alice? Say is—is he safe?'

"Alice seemed to evade the question: she wiped her eyes with the lappet of her little jacket, and begged of Madame to compose herself to rest.

"'You will know all about it when the doctor comes!'

"It was fortunate that, as she said this, the doctor did come; for Madame had raised herself in the bed, and seemed determined to repair to the scene of confusion; which she certainly could have effected, in spite of the feeble resistance Alice and myself could have opposed to so rash a proceeding.

"The doctor seemed distracted: he paid no attention to his lady's questions, but, apparently intent on the meditation of some plan, remained seated at the head of the bed, his cheek resting on his elbow, and that on the pillow.

"Thinking, from the manner in which Madame had checked herself when speaking to Alice, that my pre-

sence was a restraint, I withdrew into my chamber, and gave a loose to the anguish which oppressed me: throwing myself on the bed, I sought relief in tears, and, bewildering my imagination amidst a maze of conjectures, fell into a sound sleep, in which I remained during many hours.

"Without the refreshing aid of my pillow, I know not how I should have supported myself under such distress: ignorant of those circumstances which seemed to govern the conduct of all around me, and seeing only a repetition of those tumults which had given me so much uneasiness when I first entered the place, it was totally out of my power to form any rational opinion as to my fate.

"It was, however, sufficiently evident that I was a close prisoner; and, from the hints dropped by Madame Vaison, ...bt remained of her involuntary

detention. She appeared to pant for liberty, yet feared to confide in any person; though it was evident that Alice was not altogether ignorant of some matters which Madame seemed to reserve from all but her.

" Seeing that nothing but the most patient resignation could avail me at the moment, I judged it prudent to adopt the most submissive appearances, and to reserve my little stock of fortitude, for such moments as might require its exertion.

" My mind was considerably calmed by this resolution, which certainly was, in my situation, the only safe mode of conduct: I felt my heart lighter, and Hope, with kindest solicitude, seemed to be upholding various pictures of happiness, as I cautiously opened the door of my little apartment, and entered that where Madame lay.

" The good Alice was sitting by her

bed side, seemingly in tears; her hand was over her eyes, and she occasionally uttered low lamentations, which pained me to the soul. Madame was in a very feeble state, and scarcely capable of answering my question as to her health. She pressed my hand with the most affectionate tenderness; and, putting it to her lips, kissed it with evident emotion.

"There stood a small taper on her toilet: the light passing between the curtains at the foot of the bed shewed me that her cheeks were moist with tears, which at times dropped warm upon my hand.

"My weakness became triumphant on this occasion, and set all my newly-formed resolves, as to serenity and composure, at defiance. In truth, I considered the result of that compassion, I felt to be closely allied to my nature, as being out of the scale, I gave a loose to my feelings, and seemed

to entertain the grief of Madame as a kindred sorrow.

" Her heart was too full to allow of any conversation, especially on a topic of which I was completely ignorant: nor could Alice, so much was she agitated, give me the smallest satisfaction. My tongue did not venture to put a question, but my eyes indicated a thousand queries; each important to my own situation, and perhaps not indifferent to the fortunes of my companions.

" The doctor now entered; his countenance pale, his features strongly impressed by the hand of sorrow, and a certain wildness seeming to indicate, that the affliction which pervaded the mind of his lady, was doing no inconsiderable mischief to his own. He did not notice me, but threw himself into an arm chair on the other side of the bed.

" ' My dear,' said Madame, ' here is

Mademoiselle; you surely did not see her.'

"The doctor endeavoured to recover himself, and to abstract his thoughts from those reflections that were at the moment absorbing his whole attention: he arose from his seat, and striving to chase away the dejection which occupied his countenance, as well as his mind, came towards me in the most affable and friendly manner.

"He took my hand, and looked in my face with the most agonized expression. He seemed to say 'Pity me!' while, at the same moment, compassion was so strongly delineated in every feature, and his eye so fully conveyed 'I pity you!' that it seemed a moot point which of us was in reality the greatest sufferer.

"'I had prepared a letter for you, Annette.'

"'A letter, sir?'

"'Yes; it was written under the apprehension that I might not find so early an opportunity of conversing with you in private, as the circumstances we are all under require.'

"'My dear,' said Madame, 'would it not be more prudent to——'

"'I understand you,' replied the good man, 'there is no danger from that quarter; they are all engaged in affairs that will amuse them for some time: probably for a day or two.—I would not accuse you of so much dulness as not to suppose, Annette, you could have failed to perceive, that our residence here is by no means a matter of choice: you must have observed, that we are not treated with confidence, though we cannot accuse any person of rudeness or disrespect, further than in the vigilant discharge of what is considered as a duty. We are compelled to be on our guard, and even

to smother, not only our anger but those tokens of affection, arising from the natural impulse of consanguinity.

"'I am speaking in parables; but the day will come, I trust, when you will not find me so reserved.—It is necessary to be brief—and to proceed to the point.

"'This letter will explain to you more fully what I had to state; at this moment I must confine myself to enjoining you to the utmost circumspection, and rather to shun than to appear attached to us.'

"'Pray, my dear sir, who, and what, is this person you call the governor?'

"The doctor paused: he looked at Madame, who appeared not to approve the question: Alice held down her head, and all seemed to be averse to the disclosure.

"'Your question is a very natural one, Annette, but the knowledge of that 'who,' and 'what,' could render you no service,

but might give birth to opinions, and to a conduct, which could not fail to produce the most serious consequences.

"'Besides, if, in an unguarded moment, you should give the most trifling cause to suspect you possessed such knowledge, ruin would inevitably be entailed upon us all.'

"'Sir, I will not presume to repeat that question; but, perhaps I might, with less impropriety, inquire regarding the monk?'

"The doctor smiled—'That,' said he, 'is even a more serious question than the other.'

"I could scarcely refrain from laughing; but my curiosity was raised, and I could not resist one more question, in the result of which I felt myself unaccountably interested.

"'Well, I will say no more about him either; yet, surely there can be no harm in expressing my wish to know something

relating to that genteel young officer, who sat next to me at table?'

"The doctor resumed his melancholy air: Madame burst into tears, and Alice heaved a profound sigh. I knew not what to think; while at the same moment my thoughts were more busy than ever. Silence appeared to be the most advisable resource, though it was then a painful one: the fear of renewing that affecting scene which had just passed, impressed me with the absolute necessity of refraining from questions of every description, and made me determine, that, whatever I was destined to know, should be the result of patient forbearance.

"Matters were in this state when supper was announced, by the ringing of a bell in the great arched gallery. Madame was too ill to quit her bed; and I would willingly have remained with her, but Monsieur Vaison hinted that it would be improper. We therefore endeavoured to

disguise our hearts, by means of a forced smile, and with an affected composure, approaching to gaiety, entered the hall; where we found the governor sitting by the fire.

"Seeing us, he started up, and insisted on my taking the seat he had quitted. I thought he viewed the doctor at times with a very inquisitive eye; and, that something was brooding in his mind, not very favourable to my friend.

"'I understood, sir, you had been going into the country,' said the doctor.

"'I did intend it, but have left that matter to the conduct of our lieutenant.—How is your lady? I hope she will be able to join us?'

"'She is not able to quit her bed;' said the doctor: 'the fit has been very strong, and was so long that I began to entertain apprehensions for her safety.'

"The governor endeavoured to assume an air of dejection, and condoled with

the doctor in such warm terms as would have deceived me, had I not remarked a certain *fierté* in his eyes, which fully convinced me of his insincerity, and that he was a complete hypocrite.

"I was not much displeased at this; because it gave me a perfect insight into his character, and set me on my guard. It was not, however, without some regret that I beheld a man whose appearance, strength of mind, address, and highly polished manners, should have placed him in the most honourable situation, thus debase himself by dissimulation, and assume a character more suited to men of an inferior stamp.

"During the repast, of which we all partook in a very sparing, indeed in a very ceremonious, manner, the conversation was confined to trifling topics, and at intervals was altogether suspended. We appeared like three persons intent on deceiving each other; but, if circum-

stances could entitle us to form a judgment on the case, it was obvious, that not one of us was duped on the occasion: our endeavours to be at ease, induced a stiffness fully indicating our real sentiments, and exposing us mutually to detection.

"The table was drawn aside, and a settee was substituted for the chairs on which the governor and myself had been sitting; at the moment this was doing he asked if the doctor had been to see his patient? and how the matter was likely to terminate?

"'It is impossible to decide; but if no alarming fever should follow, he may do well—yet—I will not venture to predict his recovery.'

"'Under *your* care, I should be greatly surprised if he failed.' The governor said this in so significant a manner, that the good Vaison was much affected: he with difficulty checked the starting tear, and suddenly quitted the room.

"'Aha!' said the governor, with a triumphant smile, as the doctor closed the bed-room door.

"I was so struck with what had passed, that I sat lost in a reverie, and totally forgot the situation in which it had placed me. On recovering myself, I attempted to withdraw; but was gently detained.

"'Annette,' said the governor, 'I would take this opportunity of speaking with you: sit down, and allow me to solicit your attention to what I am about to state: nay, fear not; what I intend is for your comfort, for your benefit; therefore, banish that silly apprehension, and confide in my disposition to render you happy.'

"This preamble was neither convincing, nor pleasing: I shuddered at the insignificance of my powers, and of my influence, when opposed to those of the man who held me in confinement. But I felt the necessity of seeming to

lend an ear to what, I doubted not, was to be the burden of our discourse: I was patient; and, under the hope of taking advantage of some indulgence, which might await the apparent, though reluctant, toleration of his addresses, made up my mind to play my cards to the best the occasion might offer. In a moment my plan was formed; my resolution was fixed; and my hypocrisy was worked up to that pitch my opponent did not, I believe, calculate to find brought into competition with his own.

" ' You are young, Annette, and know little of the world: your susceptibility renders you a warm friend, but an incautious one. You are easily led to repose a confidence in those who, by a specious mode of arguing, added to a conciliating manner, seem to offer an honest heart to your acceptance.'

" To have doubted the fact, generally, would have been to contradict my own

conscience; but in this instance the reverse was the case: the specious and conciliating governor was now posting additional guards, while he thought he was lulling the centinel into a slumber.

"'You came with Letour: he was a gallant fellow, but by no means worthy your affection: his audacity, in lodging you in a garrison where women are not allowed to remain as inmates, occasioned his death. We are placed in a very awkward predicament by your presence among us; for I am bound, by my situation, to enforce the regulation that prohibits your stay. It was with extreme difficulty the doctor's lady was allowed to remain with him.'

"This was far from what I had supposed would have been the subject to be discussed: I should have gladly joined in the declaration regarding the impropriety of my stay, had I not been previously satisfied that some latent mischief at-

tached to the whole purport of whatever discourse the governor might hold with me; and had I not been fully apprized, that Madame Vaison would most cheerfully have waived the indulgence just noticed.

" ' You shall not be detained, Annette; you shall be restored to your friends. The good father who honoured us with his company has received the address of your family, who will in a few days again embrace you.'

" Oh! my dear, dear friends! how did my heart bound as he flattered me with the hope of being once more encircled by your arms! Joy hastened each pulse, and lighted up my countenance, which beamed with all those blissful emanations that await the return of happiness.

" ' Ah! sir,' I exclaimed, ' can it be possible that you interest yourself in the welfare of Annette? She will be grateful to you for this kindness. She will pray

for you; she will prostrate herself at the shrine of St. Gal for your prosperity.'

"Nothing can equal the extacy I felt at the prospect of being liberated; all my boasted caution and duplicity vanished, and I opened my heart without reserve to the governor, whose character I began to suspect had been greatly misrepresented.

"The conversation turned on the affairs of Monsieur Vaison. Being eager to know who they were, I put the question boldly to the governor.

"'He is a state prisoner; his crimes were of such magnitude, that nothing but the extreme humanity of the emperor could have spared the life of a man, who had become so odious to his fellow citizens.'

"'I presume this fortress has many such condemned persons within its walls?'

"'Yes, Annette, there are several who do not remain by choice: some are con-

fined for a certain term, others for life: the doctor is of the latter class. He is an intriguing character, and we are obliged to watch him very narrowly. The whole of the Tyrol, in which we are, is a very strong country; indeed, for the most part, impenetrable; else he would not have so much liberty as he enjoys.'

"'But, sir, this place seems to be so completely sequestered, that, I should suppose, you must have particular marks whereby to ascertain your route: the whole country is so wild, and the fortress is so contrived, that it must be impossible for one, not previously instructed in the passages leading to it, to find an entrance.'

"'True, Annette, the emperor selected this spot for the confinement of delinquents of a superior class, on account of its privacy: all who are sent hither are conveyed, at least forty miles, in a machine, in which they are so completely cased, that it is utterly impossible for

them to form the most distant conjecture as to the route by which they proceed; and the same precaution is adopted whenever they are discharged. But, my dear, you seem to be fatigued; I will give you a cordial, which will recruit your frame and restore your spirits.'

"He arose, and opened a little cupboard, from which taking a crystal bottle, he presented me a small glass of the most delicious liquor I ever tasted. It was extremely rich and fragrant. In a few minutes I felt myself quite exhilarated, and became absolutely loquacious.

"I was the more pleased, because the governor did not in the least trespass upon decorum, but expressed himself with kindness, such as appeared to be completely disinterested. He gave me some cautions in regard to the doctor and his lady; and, after repeated assurances of his firm friendship, lighted a small taper that stood on a little bracket,

and, putting it into my hand, wished me a good night.

" It is not easy to describe what were my thoughts on this occasion: as I passed through the doctor's chamber, the good Alice was sitting at the side of the bed, conversing with Madame; who seemed, I thought, to be surprised at my long stay with the governor. Monsieur Vaison held me affectionately by the hand; and, opening the door of my apartment, took leave of me with parental tenderness; recommending to me to read the letter with great attention, and to profit by the knowledge it conveyed.

" The various occurrences of the day flitted in my memory like the faint recollections of a confused dream: I could scarcely think them real; nor could I bring myself to any conclusive opinion as to the merits of the governor, or the delinquency of Monsieur Vaison. For a while I sat on the edge of my bed, and

considered all that had been stated on either side: but it was to no purpose.

" The letter I supposed would enable me to decide; but on searching for it in my pocket it was gone! Vexation, disappointment, and fear, now made me tremble; it was in vain I searched; the scrutiny only convinced me of the loss.

" I was in doubt whether to inform the doctor of it, or not; but recollecting, that he could not fail to discover my negligence, I tapped at the door, and acquainted him with my misfortune.

" The good man's confusion was far greater than my own, and the alarm which pervaded the mind of Madame struck me with horror. In the first transports of consternation, she blamed her husband for putting pen to paper, by which substantial proofs of his having given me information would be exhibited, and the consequences be entailed on the ty. She blamed me in very

round terms, and even cursed the day on which she had ever seen me.

"Monsieur Vaison was, however, extremely temperate; and, though he regretted my want of care, his chidings were more in the tone of admonition than of censure. He thought it possible I might have left it somewhere in the room, before we went to supper; and took the candle to search about the bed.

"The quick eye of Madame soon lighted on the object of our solicitude: perceiving the letter, as it lay partly under a handkerchief, she seized it with exultation. The doctor held forth his hand to receive it, but such was the state of Madame's mind at the moment, that the paper was torn to pieces in an instant: she gave the fragments to Alice, who committed them to the flames.

"'My dear, said the doctor, you have acted inconsiderately: it was indispensably necessary that Annette should have

been informed of the particulars; else how could she act up to that part, which, in order to secure our liberation, she must assume?'

"'Don't talk to me of parts, when I see she is negligent, and more calculated for discovery than for secrecy,' said Madame. 'I had foolishly entertained the hope of deriving aid from her prudence and good sense; but I have done with her. What! shall we expose our lives to the carelessness of one who shews so little attention to matters of the highest importance? Come, Monsieur Vaison, get into bed; and praise God it was no worse.'

"Seeing it was in vain to argue with one so irritated, and trusting to the kind disposition of the doctor, I remained perfectly calm, and retired to my room with less chagrin than I have often experienced from more trivial causes.

"It was, however, late before I fell

asleep: such was the impression made upon me by the very great kindness of the governor, and such the doubts I began to entertain regarding the character of the doctor, that I was absolutely prepossessed considerably to the prejudice of the latter, before my eyes closed for the night.

"The deportment of Madame the next morning, rather tended to confirm my change of opinion: she was reserved, and I thought disobliging; her answers were snappish and unmannerly. The doctor retained his usual politeness, and was evidently much hurt, to see his lady conduct herself in such a manner towards me.

"It was no small pleasure to me to learn, that the wounded person was likely to recover; even though I was not as yet certified as to the fate of the young officer: the great concern felt by the doctor, for the poor man's welfare, was sufficient to excite my compassion, and to cause

my offering the most fervent prayers for his recovery.

" Madame remained in her room, and the doctor led me into the hall, where we found the governor waiting for us. After breakfast the doctor went to see his patient a second time, and I accepted the governor's invitation to walk with him round the garrison.

" He led me through the same passages I had already visited, and into a little garden, surrounded by precipices: we saw very few of the soldiers; the barracks, the kitchen, &c. seemed almost empty. But in every post the guards seemed to be doubled, and particularly alert.

" Our conversation was not confined to any single subject; we talked of the grand masses of rock every where to be seen, of the beauties of cultivated countries, and of the different modes of living in various parts of Switzerland.

" The governor appeared to have studied mankind; his remarks were judicious, and generally supported by appropriate confirmations founded on well-known facts, or on sound reasoning: he abounded in anecdote, and possessed a pleasant manner of relating them.

" It would be fastidious in me to say I was not partial to him: the truth is, that, notwithstanding what I had seen of his duplicity, so completely were my sentiments changed, that I felt hurt, and ashamed of ever having entertained an opinion to his prejudice.

" I considered him as a man of eminent abilities, selected by the emperor to an important trust; and made no doubt but the malevolence of Madame proceeded entirely from the severity with which he was necessarily compelled to treat his prisoners: for when I maturely weighed all that had been said by the doctor, or his lady, not a word appeared

which negatived my adoption of such ideas: on the other hand, it seemed very likely that they wished to draw me into some scheme for their own benefit, and to make me subservient to their purposes.

"As to their obtaining my enlargement, that I reckoned was out of their power: besides, there could be no occasion for any clandestine attempt, when I felt assured the governor meant to restore me to my friends.

"Therefore, after deliberately weighing all that could be urged on either side of the question, I came to the determination of avoiding every thing that could bear the imputation of treachery, or of intrigue; and made up my mind to avail myself of the partiality which, I thought, the governor had began to entertain for me: nay, I felt attached to him, and even became rather indifferent as to my future detention.

"Do me the justice, nevertheless, to

suppose that my thoughts were not altogether abstracted from the state in which I had left my dear aunt! Ah! no: many an hour has been passed in tears, at the recollection of what she must have suffered in consequence of my absence.

"And when my aged father's wants rushed upon my memory, my brain was nearly turned. Yet, in the midst of all my sufferings, of all my fears, of all my doubts, hope cheered me with the assurance of speedy restoration to happiness. My youthful gaiety, and my sanguine disposition, made me consider my misfortunes as trivial, and bore me up against a number of ills that would have overwhelmed one possessed of less fortitude; or, I should rather say, of a less flow of spirits.

"The favourable sentiments I entertained towards the governor rapidly increased; I beheld him with admiration; I listened to him with eager attention;

I studied to please him: in short—I loved him!

"Nor should my doing so create surprise: he was handsome, respectful, and kind. Oh! how many amiable women lament the absence of even one of those qualifications, from the characters of their lords! How many would resign beauty, rank, and riches, for what is so easy, so pleasing to bestow—for—kindness!

"As we were returning into the passage leading to the fortress, I observed a small grotto excavated in the side of a huge mass of granite: the entrance was beautifully ornamented with a profusion of various coloured stones, which seemed to have been collected with no small labour and care.

"The governor told me it was a little retreat, in which Madame Vaison occasionally enjoyed the fresh air; and, that she had taken considerable pains to ob-

tain the ornaments; which the troopers occasionally picked up on the borders of the Rhine, and presented to her.

"I longed to see the interior, but the governor declined; urging, that it was always locked, and, that Madame had the key. He also observed to me, that she had an unaccountable objection to admitting any person, except her husband, within it.

"The circumstance struck me forcibly; and, though I suppressed my enquiry at the moment, made me extremely eager to gain admission.

"We passed on, and returned to the hall, where the governor found a letter: he took it into his library, in which he remained for upwards of an hour, and then returned with one he had written: it was instantly dispatched by a horseman.

"During the whole day he appeared uneasy: he ate but little dinner, and went to the out posts, there directing

his telescope towards the lake which I had seen when in company with Madame Vaison.

"Finding the time hang very heavy, I endeavoured to amuse myself with reading; the governor having kindly supplied me with books: but they were mostly on subjects far beyond my understanding, and afforded me little variety or gratification. On my mentioning a wish to obtain some materials for needle-work, embroidery, &c., the governor conducted me into a little closet, where, in various drawers, I found an immense assortment of silks, satins, brocades, tissues, gold and silver lace, and thread, and an unlimited variety of all the requisites for my purpose.

"Several days past in this manner: I alienated myself by degrees from the doctor and his lady, who often eyed me with much earnestness; the former had sometimes a tear starting from his

eye, as, whenever the opportunity offered, he took my hand between both his own, and pressed it with extreme agitation.

" This conduct surprised, and confounded me; it caused me frequently to revolve in my mind what could be the cause of that excessive interest Monsieur Vaison appeared to take in my affairs: at times I thought it might be the effect of an illicit passion, and resolved to avoid giving him the smallest encouragement, or to allow his seeing me, though but for a moment, in private.

" In the mean time my attachment to the governor became absolutely uncontrolable: he was ever in my thoughts; and, even at table, my tongue, as well as my eyes, betrayed the sentiments I entertained in his favour. He, however, preserved a certain distant deportment; which, while it convinced me of his rectitude and good intentions, caused me to act with less reserve, and to consider

myself perfectly secure from any attempt to injure my peace of mind.

" I had retired one morning into my little apartment, and had just sat down to finish a waistcoat of white satin, which I had tamboured in secret, for the purpose of surprising the object of my affection with a present of my own work, when the doctor stole in so quietly, that he was at my side without my having any notice of his approach.

" He put his finger to his lips, and, with great caution, drew a small stool from under my toilet: he seated himself close before me, and taking my hand in his usual way, hesitated before he spoke; his countenance at the same time betraying considerable emotion, mixed with dejection.

" Though by no means alarmed, I felt confused: my limbs trembled, my cheeks glowed, and my heart beat with such force as considerably obstructed my

respiration. It was so long before the doctor could collect himself to address me, that I certainly should have spoken, to enquire the occasion of his visiting me in so extraordinary a manner, were it not that my tongue, partaking of the sensations that pervaded me, refused obedience to my will.

" ' Charming Annette!' said Monsieur Vaison, his eyes beaming with tenderness—' charming Annette!'

" He sighed, and shook his head, in seeming agony of thought.

" ' Deign, lovely girl, to listen to me. I would reveal—but—nay, you could not be so cruel!'

" The tears burst from their matrices, and flowing down his convulsed cheek, gave such a melancholy cast to his countenance, that, by a rapid transition, my whole soul was warmed to pity.

" ' You seem unhappy, my dear sir?'

" He sighed, or rather he groaned, but made no reply.

" I was amazed, and having now recovered a certain degree of calmness, endeavoured to guess at the cause of his agitation. Whether vanity or ignorance prompted me, I know not; but the conclusion of my thoughts attributed the whole to love.

" ' You may have perceived, Madembiselle, that I have been particularly intent on obtaining a private interview: the moment has been favourable to my wishes: Madame being now engaged in some particular business relative to the person who was wounded—'

" ' My thoughts now changed their object: imagination presented to me a lovely youth, suffering under all the anguish of corporeal, and of mental feeling.

" ' What new misfortune awaits him?' cried I with impatience.

" ' Silence, my dear, we shall be overheard—time is precious, and I must not lose this opportunity of——'

" At this moment something pon-

derous fell at the door of the chamber. I started up, and saw Madame Vaison lying in convulsions just within the threshold!

"'This is strange,' said the doctor, who appeared considerably affected by so unaccountable an incident. 'This is strange—! Surely something must have happened to Pierre!'

"'Pierre!—who do you mean, doctor?'

"The colour forsook Monsieur's cheeks, he appeared confused, and, without giving me an answer, ran to his ecritoire for a lancet. While he was looking at its point, my attention was attracted to the window, by a voice which called to me to beware how I conducted myself.

"Astonishment deprived me of my faculties; I sank on my little bed, quite overcome, and perfectly senseless. How long I remained in that situation I know

not, but when the fit subsided, and allowed me to collect my wandering thoughts, I perceived the doctor sitting thoughtfully, on the stool he had formerly drawn close to my chair. He was disturbed from his reverie by a heavy sigh which, to my great chagrin, involuntarily escaped me; I was in hopes of being able to observe the conduct of Monsieur Vaison, and, possibly, to collect something from whatever expressions might escape him: for he was extremely addicted to soliloquize.

" With a look which spoke his feelings, he slowly approached, and seated himself on the side of the bed: taking my hand, to feel my pulse, which he seemed to consider with great attention, ' You are better I perceive, Annette ?'

" So much was I enfeebled, that it was not in my power to make him any answer; however, I felt in a great mea-

sure relieved from an oppression which resembled suffocation, and managed to swallow some preparation which the doctor gave me in a small cup.

" The recollection of the warning voice gave me inexpressible uneasiness: I had not a doubt but the governor had watched the doctor into my room; and, by means of that complete knowledge he possessed in regard to every avenue, and opening, about the fortress, had thus announced his acquaintance with our interview.

" But the sudden appearance of Madame was perfectly unaccountable: though the doctor's alarm, regarding the person whom he now had called Pierre, led me to conclude, that some afflicting intelligence as to his fate had hastened her return; and, that before she could announce it, extreme agitation had bereft her of sense.

" ' You will of course, Annette, for

all our sakes, be secret as to our having had an interview in your chamber.'

" I was silent; the imposition of secrecy appeared to be highly unbecoming, and I was about to say as much, when the sound of Madame's voice, imperiously summoning her husband, made the latter start from his seat.

" He again put his finger to his lips, and, with a look expressing earnest solicitude, quitted my chamber.

" As he left the door partly open, I was able to hear occasionally a few words of the conversation they entered into. Madame was extremely violent, and often uttered terms of execration, which were, without doubt levelled at myself.

" The doctor, throughout, remained calm, and seemed rather to expostulate, and endeavouring to conciliate his intemperate lady; who, probably, seeing that the door was not closed, came towards it,

and banged it to with such violence as shocked my whole frame.

" The foregoing occurrences not only surprised, but alarmed and indisposed, me considerably.

" Immured under such extraordinary circumstances, and seeing no hope of escape, judging that the doctor and Madame were not proper persons to confide in, and the governor having allowed day after day, and week after week, to pass without fulfilling his promise of restoring me to my family, my heart was heavily oppressed, and my tears flowed in torrents.

" Dinner was announced, and we all repaired to the great hall, with very different feelings, and some variety in our aspects; though all endeavoured to conceal their sentiments, and to assume an air of social gaiety. Knowing that my own affected levity was purely hypocritical, the forced smiles of Madame, es-

pecially when she had occasion to address me, caused but an indifferent opinion of the company at large, and taught me to reflect on those arts, and that duplicity, which are so often, and so successfully, practised upon the credulous and good natured.

" The governor was at times extremely thoughtful; and, to me, seemed to eye the doctor with a jealous eye; while the latter evidently had lost even that little confidence with which he ordinarily addressed the chief.

" There appeared to be something going on, that threatened to overwhelm the small portion of tranquillity which had been gradually accumulating; and I had not a doubt but, that the discovery made by the governor would produce serious consequences on Monsieur and Madame Vaison; whose society now became not only irksome, but, as I judged, extremely dangerous.

" Seeing them retire to their apartment after dinner, I took my hat and vest, which lay upon a chair in the hall, and went out to the terrace and parade by the ordinary route; with which practice had rendered me perfectly familiar. A volume of Petrarch, my almost constant companion, served to amuse me for a while, and chased from my mind many an unwelcome thought that repeatedly endeavoured to obtrude itself into notice.

" I had not been long absent from the interior of the garrison, before I perceived the governor ascending to the parade, where I was sitting on a bench hewn out of the solid rock, by the pathway along which the troops had proceeded to the cemetary, when poor Letour was buried. The particulars of that scene recurred to my memory, and added to the lowness occasioned by the occurrences of the forenoon.

" My mind flitted with incredible rapidity over my misfortunes, and induced such a profound state of reflection, that the governor had already ascended the terrace, and was within a few yards of me, before the sound of his footsteps, echoed with some force by the adjacent heights, recalled my attention to his approach.

" He smiled at the confusion I betrayed on recovering from my absence of thought, and, in the most affable manner, seated himself by me. Notwithstanding my endeavours to conceal the inquietude which filled my mind, it was not difficult for him to discover my emotion: I believe, indeed, that the effort I made to appear composed, like the overstrained conduct of designing persons, operated rather against my intention.

" He interrogated me, with extreme delicacy, as to the cause of my dejection;

assuring me, at the same time, that, if in his power to alleviate what I appeared to suffer, nothing should be omitted which could tend to my relief.

"I repeated my earnest desire to visit my friends at Constance.

"He smiled, and, with a countenance full of benignity, declared his intention of conveying me to them in person.

"I asked him when.

"He hesitated, but told me it was his wish to be introduced to my family; he hoped 'with some claim to their esteem.'

"I knew not what answer to make; for I felt that my partiality for him might lead me into some indiscretion; or, at least, into too open an avowal of the favourable sentiments I entertained in his behalf; while, at the same time, the manner in which I had been brought to the fortress, and the length of time I had been detained, while I had no doubt that my liberation was at all times practicable,

and only wanted his sanction, caused me to remain for a while silent.

" 'I am pleased, Annette, with the anxiety you have evinced to be restored to your friends; it satisfies me that you would repay, with equal assiduity, the affections of that happy man whom you should honour with this lily hand: would to heaven I could obtain such a treasure!'

" This open declaration was perfectly unexpected, and threw me completely into confusion. My limbs trembled, my heart beat with violence, and I fainted gradually into the governor's arms. On being restored to my senses, I perceived him standing before me, with a small phial, the contents of which he was rubbing upon my temples.

" This kindness, which was accompanied with the warmest expressions of affection, and a countenance replete with solicitude, decided whatever might have

remained doubtful, in regard to his amiable principles.

" Seeing me revive, he embraced me with transport, and kissed me with rapturous delight. He said a thousand tender things, which were concluded with the resolution that our nuptials should not be delayed: the next day was appointed for the ceremony; but under the express injunction of its being kept a profound secret.

" Accordingly, the next morning we were united in the holy bands by a priest, whose countenance appeared quite familiar, and who seemed as much as possible to avoid meeting my eye; though on that head he might have quieted his apprehensions, if he had any, as I was too much abashed to venture more ocular research, than resulted from the accidental glances which unintentionally escaped me.

" When the company were assembled in the dinner hall, the governor conduct-

ed me from the doctor's apartment, where I was sitting, all in a tremor, and, placing me at the head of the table, announced our union. Nothing can exceed the astonishment of Monsieur and Madame Vaison on that occasion: they changed colour, and appeared considerably agitated; though it was evident they were studious to conceal those feelings, which I attributed to fear on his, and to envy on her, part.

"When the repast was over, and that I was about to retire, the governor rang a bell; when instantly a young woman, of very decent appearance, entered at the door which opened into the study. A significant look from the governor, indicated that I should follow her; which I did without hesitation, but not without casting a look towards the doctor and his lady; both of whom seemed extremely downcast on the occasion, and scarcely ventured to notice my retiring.

"The maid led me through a long suit

of rooms, elegantly furnished, into a spacious chamber, where every article of furniture, and of convenience, was to be seen in the highest stile. She shewed me various closets, presses, and a flight of back stairs, which led down to a superb marble bath, dressing room, &c.

"It is utterly impossible to describe the surprise, as well as the pleasure, which resulted from this change: it appeared like a dream. Henceforth, I had not the least doubt but, that every thing would be done which could contribute to the satisfaction of my friends, as well as to my own happiness.

"Some circumstances, nevertheless, excited my curiosity; these were, that after the marriage had been solemnized, and that too in the presence of the priest only, the governor made me promise in the strongest terms, that I never would divulge the name by which he had been

allied to me at the altar:' also, that that name was different from what was written as the address of many letters he was in the habit of receiving: it likewise appeared curious, that some were only marked with a crucifix, either in red or black; and, that only one particular person was ever entrusted to deliver such into his hands.

"It was not long before I collected sufficient courage to ask what those crosses meant: he replied they were dispatches from the Emperor, regarding secret circumstances relating to the prisoners; and, that if he were to divulge their contents, he should be condemned to perpetual imprisonment.

"The answer appeared perfectly satisfactory, and so far convinced me that the reasons for other parts of his conduct would prove equally proper, that I had little curiosity to inquire into them: nei-

ther had I any doubt of his voluntarily explaining whatever was proper for me to know.

"In this situation, however circumscribed, and however strange in many respects, I lived four months comfortable, contented, and, excepting my anxiety to see my friends, perfectly happy. I was treated with attention, and respect, by every one; though the doctor and his lady had something in their manner towards me, which appeared so interesting, and so mournful, that my curiosity was considerably excited, and I should willingly have sought an explanation, had not the conduct of the former, and the warning given through the window, filled me with apprehension, and urged me to evade every possible means of subjecting myself to further occurrences of that description.

"After having so long resided in this secluded state, enjoying the love and

friendship, of a man in every instance amiable, I determined, under his approbation, to repair to Constance, and to introduce my beloved husband to the hospitable, but humble, roof of my dear aunt. Every thing was arranged, and we were to have set out the next morning before daybreak, when a sudden resolution occurred to me of paying a visit to the grave of the unfortunate Letour; regarding whom so many enquiries would probably be made by my friends at Constance.

"Accordingly, I proceeded through the several passages leading to the parade, intending to go along the winding route, among the crags, into the cemetery. Descending from the parade, to a place where I never had been, I perceived the grotto formerly described. In the court yard adjoining thereto stood a tall woman, habited as a nun, and apparently in deep thought. At times she

cast her eyes towards the heavens, joining her hands, obviously, in fervent prayer; while at other moments she seemed in bitter anguish; applying the border of her veil to her eyes, as though removing sorrow's overflow.

"As she turned accidentally toward the place where I stood, my figure was distinctly displayed to her by the strong light of a brilliant sun. I was indeed conspicuous, and near enough for her to distinguish, that it was not Madame Vaison she beheld. Her strong marked countenance was instantly changed; all the violent passions seemed to concentre in her features, while she for a few moments eyed me; which done, with fury in her looks and manner, she darted into the grotto, and disappeared.

"It were vain to attempt the description of what I felt, nor could I, with better hope of success, commence the detail of all those ideas, which successively bewilder-

ed my brain. I was lost in amazement, and would have given worlds to become acquainted with the particulars of what had just been before me: my eyes were rivetted to the door of the grotto, with the eager hope of seeing the nun return; but in vain; she was gone.

"Just as I was about to retire from the scite of my observations, a shadow proceeded along the area in which the grotto stood: it was for a while stationary; but again advanced, until at length I discovered the young officer who had so much attracted my attention, and who, I concluded, was the person alluded to under the name of Pierre by Monsieur Vaison, when his lady fainted at the door of my little chamber.

"The youth advanced with a cautious step towards the door of the grotto: he tapped gently, but no answer was given: he repeated the signal, but without effect. Suddenly he turned about, as though at-

tracted by some object; and with an active, but light, pace gained a small path, which led up from the area, among the rocks whereby it was surrounded.

"After a few partial views of him among the fissures as he ascended, he was lost to my sight: but I continued searching for him in the direction he had taken, until I felt myself forcibly seized by the shoulder.

"Uttering a loud shriek, I hastily turned round, and saw the nun; who, with eyes nearly bursting from their sockets, and a visage altogether terrific, looked me hard in the face, while she retained her grasp, with both hands, so firmly as to give me excruciating pain.

"Happily, the danger with which I was threatened by the attack rather summoned, than chased away, my fortitude, and I had sufficient strength to prevent the nun from precipitating me among the crags. My voice was not deficient on the occasion, for I screamed so forcibly

as to attract the notice of the young officer, who, it seems, had perceived the nun clambering among the rocks, and was following her footsteps.

" He arrived to my succour in time to prevent any serious injury, and succeeded in disengaging me from the nun, to whom he, however, spoke in the mildest terms, and, addressing her by the name of Marguarite, endeavoured to soothe into a state of subordination.

" She did not speak a word, but throwing herself backwards on a large mass of granite, burst into an hysteric laugh; at intervals screaming in the most piercing and melancholy tones.

" Pierre knew not what to do; he saw that we both required assistance; but there appeared a wildness which gave a particular character to the whole of his conduct, and made me doubt whether he was more in his senses than the nun; who I now doubted not was insane, and that

the governor had debarred my visiting the grotto, from the apprehension that she might do me some injury.

"If I had been surprised at the circumstances which had then recently happened, I was yet more so on seeing both the nun and Pierre suddenly start up, and conceal themselves behind the rocks at their back. All appeared the effect of enchantment; and it is probable I should have called to them, however much the return of the maniac might have terrified me, had not the sound of footsteps proceeding along the terrace attracted my attention.

"Though it must have been impossible for me to have assigned a cause, yet nothing would have grieved me more than the discovery of Pierre and the unfortunate woman: it naturally occurred to me, that the former had some sufficient reason for evasion; and, that it would be doing him essential disservice if his concealment were by my means to be discovered.

"I therefore took Petrarch from my pocket, and, with pretended attention to his charming lays, regained the terrace, where my husband was looking over the parapet into the cemetery, seemingly in search of me. In his usual kind and warm manner, he took my hand, and conducted me to the stone seat: he seemed pleased; and, probably owing to the state of his own mind, overlooked the very unenviable condition of mine.

"We discoursed on various subjects, but chiefly on the happiness we should enjoy in making so agreeable a tour, and for so very agreeable a purpose as that of visiting my friends. The governor was remarkably cheerful, and paid so many compliments to my temper, figure, and other personal qualifications, that I became absolutely vain, and considered myself to be far superior to the doctor's lady.

"The agreeable manner in which we conversed, chased away the apprehensions [illegible] been under, while contending with

the nun, and quite obliterated the memory of poor Letour, until the evening closed in, and we were retiring to the archway which led into the fortress, when the little path winding down to the cemetery, and from which there was a very narrow way leading, in a devious manner through the crags, to the grotto, struck my eye.

"At that moment a chill ran through my veins, and I was so faint that my husband could not avoid noticing it. With an eagerness indicating the warmest affection, his eye animated with eager solicitude, and his arm round my waist, supporting me in the most tender manner, he stopt to inquire the cause of so sudden a change.

"In a faint voice, I requested him to lead me into the passage: he did so, and seated me in the little guard room, where, by the application to my face of a handkerchief moistened with cold water, my

strength was gradually restored. In a few minutes I was well enough to proceed to the great hall, where we found Monsieur and Madame Vaison; who expressed great concern at my indisposition.

"We had just taken our seats at the coffee table, when a trooper entered without any notice, and holding up a letter in his hand, beckoned to the governor to follow. There was something in the mode of his doing this, and in his appearance, which strongly attracted my attention. Nor were the doctor and his lady unaffected on the occasion: the former became pale, while the face of the latter assumed a crimson hue, and indicated that she felt a deep interest in, or that she was aware of, some important transaction to which the letter related.

"My husband no sooner saw the letter than he started up, and hurried out of the room into the passage, in which we could

tell, by the cessation of their footsteps, and by that kind of sibillation produced by low whispering, they had stopped.

" I felt uneasy, and so far forgot myself as to inquire of the doctor, what could be the matter?

" He gave no answer, but appeared in a manner entranced, or stupefied; while Madame's eye moistened, her lip trembled, and her respiration became extremely difficult.

" During the governor's absence from the hall, not a word was spoken: he returned very soon, and appeared by no means changed from the state of mind in which he had quitted us. He said that the monk who had interred Letour was extremely ill, and had sent an earnest injunction for his attendance at the monastery early the next morning.

" ' We will call in our way to Constance, Annette: it will not, I hope, de-

tain us long;' said my husband with an air of indifference.

"I observed that the words, and the manner of their delivery, contributed greatly towards the relief of Monsieur and Madame Vaison; who gradually resumed their serenity, and, after a short while, joined in cheerful discourse. Madame was, indeed, so completely recovered from her inquietude, that she began to recollect a number of little wants, and furnished the governor with a written memorandum regarding some articles she wished him to bring her from Constance.

"As we were to quit the fortress so early in the morning, my husband suggested the expediency of our retiring early to rest; we therefore took leave of the doctor and his lady, both of whom shook me by the hand with great earnestness, and with an appearance of satisfac-

tion which almost reconciled me to them. The former seemed to linger in his farewel, and looked round, as though wishing for an opportunity of saying something in private; but he had not the means, the governor being close at his elbow, and myself particularly cautious not to give scope for any insinuation regarding my propriety of conduct; which I was determined should, on all occasions, be frank and honourable.

"The maid attended me into my chamber, while my husband remained in the library, the exterior door of which I perceived he omitted to fasten. On my reminding him of it, he observed it was not necessary; as he should have occasion to go towards the stables, and to deliver his written orders regarding some matters of importance, which were to be entrusted to the next officer in authority.

"During the time the governor was occupied in arranging for his departure,

I amused myself with assorting, and packing, a number of little curiosities, the natural produce of the country, intending to present them to my friends at Constance. Hour succeeded hour without the governor's finishing what he was intent upon; he had several times called to request I would not wait for him, but that I would get to bed, and allow the maid to retire. But my spirits were high in expectation of approaching happiness, and I felt no disposition to avail myself of his indulgence.

"The door of the stairs leading to the bath below was open, and I thought, more than once, that I heard the sound of footsteps in that direction: so far, indeed, was I convinced such was not deceptive, that I directed the maid to go down with a taper, and examine particularly in every part: she saw a cat sitting on the bottom step, and returned.

"We both laughed at my apprehen-

sions, and I was about to undress, when my husband entered, and told my attendant she might retire. She accordingly quitted me, and went up a neat little winding staircase, which opened from a corner of our chamber, and led to an apartment above it, where she always slept.

"We were not long in undressing, and both soon fell into a profound sleep; having set an alarum to awake us when the clock should strike four, and seen that every thing was in readiness for our early departure: a taper was burning in the chimney corner.

"I was awakened about two o'clock by the motion of a hand over my breast, as if searching for something: as my eyes gradually opened, I felt the clothes gently lifted from off my body, and folded back with great caution towards my husband. When my sight became more perfect, I beheld, at my bed side, the nun with

whom I had struggled on the edge of the rock. Her eyes were like vivid sparks; on her countenance was a horrid, ghastly grin; and while with one hand she held back the curtain, the other, armed with a dagger, was upraised, as prepared to plunge it into my bared bosom.

"Uttering a loud scream, I sprang up in the bed, while the nun was aiming her blow, which missed me, and buried the poniard up to the handle in the bedding. My husband, alarmed at my cries, abruptly raised himself; and fortunately, by occasioning me to fall over the side on which he had lain, saved me from the fury of the maniac, who had lost no time in resuming her threatening posture.

"'Marguarite!' exclaimed my husband, 'hold, Marguarite, hold!'

"The nun made no reply, but exerted herself, in the most ferocious manner, to force her way towards me. She struggled with the governor, who, with ex-

treme difficulty, preserved me from her fury; nor would he perhaps have been able to secure my safety had I not availed myself of a favourable moment to escape through the door into the antichamber, which was perfectly dark.

"In the mean time the vengeance of the sanguinary maniac seemed to have changed its object: she attacked my husband with such vigour, that, but for a pillow he snatched from the bed, it would have been impossible for him to have evaded the many stabs she made at him.

"At length he succeeded in tripping up one of her feet, and throwing her on the bed; in which position there was little doubt of his being able to subdue and to disarm her; for she was nearly exhausted by exertion, when suddenly the door of the library opened, and I heard the paces of two persons moving quickly across the antichamber, in which I lay nearly deprived of sense.

"The quickness of my breathing seemed to attract their notice, but they proceeded, after a short pause, to the door of the chamber.

"At this time my husband had succeeded in wrenching the dagger from the nun; and, in the moment of irritation, was about to bury it in her side, when one of the persons rapidly advanced and seized his arm; while the other, drawing a naked sword from under a cloak, which covered him completely, thrust it into the governor's body.

"It appeared evident from their manner, and from what followed, that the two strangers were not acting in union; and that the tallest, who had been the first to advance, and had seized my husband's arm, knew nothing of the approach of the person who stabbed him.

"Feeling himself wounded, the governor quitted the nun, and, directing himself against his assailant, would have cer-

tainly dispatched him, had not a vengeful blow he aimed at his breast, been resisted by a cuirasse he wore under his vest.

" No sooner was the nun liberated than she fell on her knees to the assassin, who, now changing his position, for hitherto his back had been towards me, shewed to my astonished eyes the features of Pierre!

" In the mean while my husband bled profusely, and became extremely faint: he however maintained an ineffectual struggle with the tall figure, who endeavoured to disarm him; though at the same time intent on keeping Pierre from repeating his attack.

" In that, however, he could not possibly have succeeded had I not by a sudden effort, resulting from fear for the fate of my beloved, rushed to the scene of horror, and, by throwing my arms around Pierre, precluded the means of his doing further injury.

"The nun, on seeing me, uttered a hideous scream, and starting from the position she was in, seized my throat with both her hands, and would certainly have strangled me, had not she been forced from me by Pierre, and by the other, who, casting aside the cloak in which he was muffled, discovered himself to be—the monk!

"I know not which of the party appeared the most astonished: the nun looked wildly around her, and would have escaped down the backstairs, had not the monk caught her robe, and, pronouncing her name in a most imperious tone, forced her to remain. She tremblingly obeyed.

"Finding the danger I had to apprehend from her was thus lessened, if not annihilated, I ventured to approach my husband; whose pallid looks, and cold hand, made me apprehend the worst of consequences. I rang the bell, and called

to the maid to dress, and come down, as speedily as possible; at the same time throwing over me a morning habit, and such other clothing as decency demanded.

"My sentiments regarding Pierre were now completely reversed: I no longer looked at him with admiration, nor could I forbear from expressing myself in the most resentful and contemptuous terms, while I embraced my husband, and bedewed his garments with tears.

"The nun sat perfectly silent, with an angry scowl upon her front; her brows were contracted, and her eyes stedfastly directed at the place where the sword had penetrated the governor's side. Pierre had in his countenance something remarkably fierce, but a beam of satisfaction seemed to shine from his eye: he did not stay a moment after I quitted him; but, thrusting his sword, wet with my husband's blood, into its

scabbard, abruptly, and with considerable haste, passed through the antichamber and library, into the great hall.

" 'This is all your doing, Madam!' said the monk to me, looking sternly in my face, 'and yet I cannot blame you!'

" The accusation wounded my very soul, and caused me to look up at the man who had the audacity to brand my conduct so unjustly. I was just going to demand an explanation, when the governor emphatically, though in a low voice, pronounced, 'Tis false!'

" My servant now entered the chamber, and, seeing the dreadful condition in which my husband lay, ran to call the doctor, who, at the same time, opened the door of the antichamber, and appeared fully equipped, as though about to set out on a journey. He lost no time in examining the wound, and in applying the proper dressings.

" I enquired the extent of the injury,

but he declined giving any opinion; requesting me to go into the hall, where I should find Madame. Directing my maid to follow me with such parts of my dress as I had not been able to arrange, I quitted the scene of sorrow, after embracing my husband in the most affectionate manner. I was not a little surprised, on entering the hall, to see Madame, like her spouse, fully prepared for travelling.

"She shook me affectionately by the hand, and led me into her chamber, urging me to expedite what related to my habiliments, and to take a little refreshment; concluding her injunction with stating, that time was precious, and that it was indispensably necessary to leave the fortress before the day dawned.

"'But, Madame, surely the governor cannot travel, and the occasion is not so pressing.'

"'Not pressing, Annette!' interrupt-

ed Madame, 'you are much deceived if you think the daylight will find us in this infamous den with our heads on our shoulders! The governor is not able to travel, nor would he be welcome among our party:—but come, child, hasten, for heaven's sake; in another hour our escape would be observed by the guard on the summit; and, on the alarm being given, the whole swarm would scour the country, and we should inevitably be retaken.'

"Imagine what must have been my surprise, when I found, that the whole of what had passed resulted from the contrivance of the Vaisons! In a moment my resolution was fixed: I rushed out of the apartment, intending to summon the passage guard to the assistance of my husband, and to prevent the two malefactors from availing themselves of their horrid stratagem; but, as I was about to enter the gallery, Pierre, who I had not

observed as he sat on a sopha, hastily strode across my way, and prevented me from reaching the swing-door.

"'Stop, Madame, no one can pass that way. You seem agitated—be calm, and learn, in a few words, that our lives are at stake; that liberty is offered to you —that——'

"'Liberty, villain! stand off, nor dare to touch me with those blood-stained hands.'

"I was about to force my way to the door, when suddenly the nun presented herself before me—my blood was chilled —fear overcame me, and I subsided into the most abject passiveness; notwithstanding the temperate, but mournful aspect she now had assumed.

"'You must go with us,' said she in a low tone, but with such firmness as convinced me, that opposition would be useless, and might lead to desperate mea-

sures in regard to my husband. 'You must go with us!'—

"'But the monk?'—

"'He is yet your friend; he knows not of your marriage with—with the governor: else your life would not be spared—haste—another hour, and all is lost—fly!'

"As she said this, Pierre, almost forcibly, conducted me through the library and the antichamber, into the bedchamber, where my husband was lying at length on the floor: his countenance indicated the approach of death—he was yet sensible; and, on seeing me enter the apartment, made an effort to rise, but was prevented by the monk, who, in a kneeling posture, gently debarred him.

"The doctor locked every door as we passed, and took away the keys: seeing that I lingered opposite the place where my husband lay, he endeavoured to

press me forward towards the stairs leading to the bath; but though he prevented my embracing him, he could not check my voice. Notwithstanding the force with which they hurried me out of the chamber, I had time to exclaim, 'Farewell; my love—Farewell.'

"My words operated instantaneously on the monk; who, starting from the position he was in, would have torn me from the arms of Pierre, had not his endeavours been restrained, both by that youth, and by the governor, who, seeing his intention, suddenly caught hold of his habit, and prevented the execution of his purpose.

"The dagger yet lay on the ground: the monk's eye soon caught the rays reflected from its polished blade; he stooped to grasp it.

"In the mean while, all, excepting Pierre, were out of the apartment: he had stopped to shift the key from within

to the outside, that he might secure the door after him, when the monk, by a vigorous effort, disengaged himself from my husband, and aimed a blow at Pierre, just as he was closing the door.

" The point of the dagger grazed upon an iron plate fixed on the edge of the frame, in such manner as to alter its direction, and to cause its penetrating the monk's groin.

" Pierre saw him fall: hastily fastening the door, he followed us down to the little dressing room, in the side of which was a spring, that, on being pressed, liberated a part of the wall, and discovered, to my astonished eyes, a long narrow passage; excavated in the same manner as the galleries already described.

" By the aid of a light, which Madame Vaison bore, we were enabled to thread the mazes of a very intricate outlet, intercepted by various others, leading in different directions, until we came to a

strong iron grate, which, being locked, obstructed our progress.

"A sudden damp was by this unforeseen, or rather forgotten, barrier, thrown upon our spirits: to add to our danger, voices were heard, as of men approaching by another gallery; which also led to the grate.

"Pierre did not hesitate, but making us understand by his countenance that all should remain silent, he put out the light, and we all stood motionless in a groupe, a few yards distant from the grate.

"The sounds increased, and were now approaching fast. The clatter of many horses' feet was distinguished. At length, two men came towards the barrier, discoursing of a detachment that was to be sent that morning to bring in some provision, which was collected at the mill: the horses for that purpose were now led down by two of the party; one of

whom opened the grate, and passed the other man out, with several horses following him.

"The person who had opened the grate grumbled at the delay of the lazy fellows, who were not as yet heard in the gallery: he returned a little way, and hallooed to them. Pierre seized the opportunity, and, causing us all to pass the barrier, contrived, by putting his hands through the bars, to lock it also, and to bring away the key.

"We now pushed forwards with haste, and in a very little time came up with the horses, the sound of whose footsteps guided us in regard to our distance from their leaders, while it prevented them from hearing ours.

"The trooper went whistling on until he arrived at a small opening among the woods, about four or five hundred yards from the grate. Here he stopped, and expressed considerable impatience; he

was swearing away at a great rate, when, to his astonishment, and to our inconceivable terror, a cannon was fired from the fortress. This, being the signal of alarm, and for calling in the out-posts, led us to understand that our flight was known to the garrison, and gave us just reason to apprehend we might yet be either overtaken, or be met by some party proceeding towards the fortress.

" No time was left for deliberation; but the quick mind of Pierre soon devised the means of relief. Leaving us in utter darkness under the arched gallery, and enjoining us to perfect silence, he went back cautiously a few paces up the passage, and returned, running violently, at the same time calling to the trooper who had charge of the cattle.

" Without hesitation, he ordered the man instantly to mount, to gallop along the road to Feldkirk, and to warn any parties he might meet to quit that road

instantly, on account of an attack apprehended from that point, and to proceed with him by the less frequented routes to the garrison with all speed.

" The trooper sprang across his steed, leaving the rest to the care of Pierre, who lost no time in placing Madame and myself on two large pads made of sacks, &c. that were to have been filled at the mill. We were on different horses: in the mean while the doctor had placed the nun astride upon a third, with my maid behind her. He then mounted before his lady, while Pierre placed himself in the saddle before me; having previously given one of his pistols to the doctor.

" We thought it prudent to give the trooper a few minutes before us, lest we should press too closely, and overtake him before he could have warned off any parties he might meet: therefore, we moved at a moderate pace in the first

instance; increasing it to a smart gallop whenever the road admitted.

" In this manner we were passing through the most dreary wildernesses, when suddenly the neighing of horses, a little on our right, attracted attention, and excited the most dreadful apprehensions.

" Soon after, we heard the voices of several persons calling, as if in distress; but our situation was too critical to admit of a moment's delay, or to allow us to attend to the affairs of others, however innocent, or friendly, their intentions might be: we therefore rather hastened, than slackened, our pace; and by daylight found ourselves in sight of a small village, of which the church formed a most beautiful object.

" As the sun arose at the bottom of an immense valley, between two ranges of mountains mostly covered with

wood, and in some places presenting large masses of naked stone, the forms of which might be fancied to resemble various animals, my soul was filled with admiration and gratitude. I felt, however, an unusual weight upon my spirits whenever the recollection of my husband's dying condition, and the reflection crossed my mind, that I was leaving him, I knew not why, or with whom; at the very moment too when my presence would have been a consolation.

"We were not long in reaching Feldkirk, where we presented as strange a groupe as could be imagined; the nun being not the least conspicuous of the party.

"We stopped at a very small inn at the skirt of the town, where having drank a little milk, and received a few *pateaux* of a delicious flavour, which were sold by an old woman who hawked them about in a

little wicker basket, were about to proceed, when she whispered to Pierre something which I could not understand.

" Pierre was confounded: the beldame put down her basket, and laid hold of the reins; seemingly with the intention of detaining us; but my gallant conductor gave the spur to his steed, which, though considerably fatigued by the distance we had come, made a plunge forward, and threw her down.

" Without waiting to collect her *pateaux*, she speedily got up, and ran into the town.

" I was very near falling, in consequence of the sudden motion, but made a shift to keep my seat, though extremely agitated by the occurrence; which I doubted not would be followed by some circumstance unfavourable to our progress.

" It was in vain that I interrogated Pierre as to the old woman's conduct. He assured me it was inexplicable to himself; and, that she was certainly

grass, even if attainable, would prove extremely tedious, would not recruit their strength as corn does, and could not fail to render them more sluggish than spirited. But—hark! what is that?'

"At the moment he spoke, we heard a bugle sounding the garrison call, about a quarter of a mile distant on our right: in a few moments afterwards the call was answered by another bugle; sounded, as far as we could judge, about half a mile a-head, in the track we were following.

"The doctor and his lady were extremely uneasy, Pierre was for a minute confused: he stopt, and, after a little consideration, caused us to turn back a short way, and to follow a path which led to the left: in that we put forward as fast as we could, until we came to a small opening, in which stood the remains of a cottage, that appeared to have been for some time in a state of decay.

"'Whether we are, or not,' rejoined Pierre, 'it will be absolutely necessary to stop at the first cottage we may arrive at, to refresh our cattle; which seem to tell us they have had a hard morning's work.'

"'Where do you think we shall be able to furnish them with a bait?' said the doctor.

"'I reckon,' said Pierre, 'upon our reaching the hamlet of Vaupert, situated a little to the left of our road, by midday; but we have yet full two leagues to pass over, and the road by no means favours expedition.'

"'Possibly,' said I, 'we may find some little spot of vegetation, favourable to our purpose, before we reach Vaupert.'

"'You speak as you wish, Madame,' said Pierre, 'without considering how rigorous the season has been; and, that it behoves us to give our horses something more substantial than herbage: a feed of

quit a spot of which he seemed to have some recollection.

"The whole party moved on at a brisk pace, until we arrived at the borders of a rapid stream, seemingly very deep, over which there had formerly been a stone bridge, that had, however, given way, leaving nothing but the two abutments, with a small portion of the arch attached to each.

"I had hitherto remained silent; not having uttered a word since my attempt to discover the cause of the old woman's conduct. My mind had been occupied chiefly in reflections upon the effects produced, by passing circumstances, on the countenances of my companions.

"The nun appeared the most tranquil of the groupe before me; she appeared collected, and to have little apprehension, or, at least, little solicitude, regarding future events: her mind seemed to have been formerly strained to the ut-

most, and now to have relaxed into composure.

"I envied her: I doubted not that her sorrows were over; and that her mind was eased of an enormous burthen, under whose oppressive weight she had been on the verge of destruction. She at length broke silence.

"'Do you know where you are, Pierre?'

"'Yes, Madame; this path should lead to Ems, on the eastern border of the Rhine; but thither we must not proceed: however, we need not resolve to avoid that place, since the only chance of reaching it would depend on our crossing this stream; and you see it would be madness to attempt it while the waters are so impetuous.

"The doctor suddenly appeared animated and collected. He drew closer to the horse on which I was mounted behind Pierre, and desired him to follow.

"'Whither?' said the youth. 'Surely I know this place better than you.'

"The doctor shook his head as he discharged a sorrowful, heavy sigh: he beckoned to Pierre: Pierre hesitated; but, seeing Monsieur going into the wood, through an unfrequented part that skirted the stream, he, with some reluctance, followed in silence.

"After meandering for a few minutes among crags and stumps, which almost precluded the possibility of proceeding, we at length came to a broad flat expanse of water, held up by a ridge of black marble rocks; over which it flowed into a deep chasm, where its force had gradually worn a large bason, into which the rushing fluid precipitated with inconceivable velocity, and with a sound competing with thunder itself.

"'The waters are very high indeed,' said the doctor; 'but they are yet ford-

able: take firm hold, and ply your heels well: possibly the middle may be rather deep, but one good plunge will carry us over the channel.'

"With great spirit, the doctor entered the stream, and would have been instantly followed by Pierre, had I not restrained him, that we might see how our leader should get over.

"The fact was such as the latter had stated it: we therefore followed, attended by the nun and her companion; and, after a complete wetting up to our waists, reached the opposite bank in safety. It was necessary for us to turn to our left, thereby to reach the track from the bridge; which, though only a few hundred yards from the place where we had crossed, occupied considerable time; on account of the thickness of the woods, and the unevenness of the ground.

"After much exertion, we got once

more into the pathway, and were about to move on when the sound of horses' feet, in the direction of the desolated cottage, attracted our attention. Pierre put a finger to his lips, as enjoining silence; a precaution not very necessary; for, I believe, most of the party were in such terror, that their tongues had abandoned their offices.

"Although within fifty yards of the ruined bridge, we could neither see it, nor be seen from it; but Pierre dismounted, and proceeded very softly to a situation whence he could observe all that passed. There appeared two persons, wrapped up very closely; they were well mounted, and armed with pistols and swords.

"They arrived at the brink of the water, and were evidently much surprised at finding the bridge had been carried away. They were about to return,

seemingly much disappointed, when Pierre, to our astonishment, called to inform them of the ford.

"It is scarcely possible to imagine what I felt in consequence of his imprudence! the doctor and his lady whispered, to express their surprise and chagrin; while the nun smiled, in a manner which caused me to fear she was about to relapse: her looks terrified her poor mute companion, whose countenance expressed so much apprehension as greatly excited my compassion.

"The strangers proceeded to the ford, while Pierre, leading the horse to a stump, whereon he placed his foot, retook possession of his seat. The party moved on rather leisurely, both to recruit the cattle, and to prevent accidents from the extreme ruggedness of the road. At length we entered a narrow valley, and made the best of our way towards the cross road, leading from Ems to the hamlet of

Vaupert; occasionally seeing the strangers, as they followed at about half a mile distant.

" ' What, in the name of heaven,' said the doctor, ' could induce you to speak to those men?'

" ' I saw clearly,' answered Pierre, ' they were not of a class from which we could have any thing to fear; and it appeared inhuman to let them return towards Feldkirk, after hearing the signals which occasioned us to change our route. I should have considered myself as their murderer, had any misfortune occurred to them.'

"The doctor and his lady were satisfied with the answer; they felt themselves tolerably secure, and were congratulating themselves on their good fortune, when suddenly, following the track as it led through a coppice, they saw four men, whom they instantly recognized to belong to the garrison, in a little break

among the arbourage, and apparently about to mount their horses.

" They were soon across their steeds; and, in a very peremptory tone, called to the party to stop.

" Pierre immediately made such a signal as caused a change in the manner of the soldiers; who now approached him respectfully, and enquired " what news from the garrison?"

" ' Bad enough;' answered Pierre, ' the fortress has been surprised, and it was with difficulty I could escape with these friends from the swords of the assailants.'

" ' Indeed!' said the leader of the party with much emphasis: ' what is become of the governor?'

" ' We left him,' answered the youth, ' weltering in his blood, and without the least hope of life: after a gallant defence against four of the Zurich troopers, he

received a wound in his side, of which he cannot fail to die.'

"'What is to be done?' rejoined the soldier.

"'You cannot do better than follow me,' said Pierre: 'I am only going to place our friends in safety at Bregentz; from which I shall speedily return, and collect our scattered parties to repossess ourselves of the fortress, by means of the secret passages. But our horses are so fatigued, I fear we shall be long upon the road. We were compelled to take these three, which were just leaving the eastern passage with Jaques Lemouier, and Aubert Deboigne, to take in flour from the mill.'

"'Bregentz is yet far off,' said one of the party; 'and I do not think it would be of any service for us to accompany you: on the contrary, we had better stay where we are, and give you our fresh

horses in exchange for your tired ones. You can then proceed with ease to Bregentz, and meet us wherever you may appoint.'

" ' You are a good fellow, for the offer,' said Pierre: ' we will accept it without further delay; so let us put our sacks upon your beasts, while you saddle ours, and finish the business off-hand.'

" All was done nearly so soon as said, and Pierre received a supply of arms, together with a flask of good ammunition, and a wallet of provisions. He appointed to meet him at Ems on the following day; urging them, in the mean while, to move towards Feldkirk by the road we had come.

" At this moment the two horsemen, who were following us, came to the corner of the wood; and, on seeing us, hesitated whether, or not, they should advance. To encourage them, we all

retired into the coppice, the doctor beckoning to them to follow their journey along the road from which we were withdrawing. After a short pause, they did so, but took care to pass at a smart gallop; each having a pistol in his hand.

"No sooner were they gone by than we followed them: they turned towards Ems; while we took the road leading to Bregentz, at an easy canter.

"We had proceeded about a mile in that direction, when we heard the distant report of a musket. Looking back, over a small plain we had crossed, we perceived the two gentlemen following our track at speed.

"We were at a loss what to conjecture on the occasion, but continued our journey with unabated alacrity; however they overtook us, and advised our proceeding more rapidly, as they had been attacked by five banditti; who, from

sitting under a tree by the road side, had mounted their horses in pursuit of them.

"We are not afraid,' said Pierre; 'but proceed; we will give them a warm reception if they attack us.'

"The strangers galloped on; and we kept close at their heels: they were so muffled up that we could not distinguish their features. Our horses were excellent, and would have insured our speedy arrival, had not Madame Vaison complained of extreme faintness: that obliged us to slacken our pace a little, and we had the mortification to perceive the strangers leaving us full a quarter of a mile behind: on the other hand, we could at times discern their pursuers, as they advanced upon the road behind us.

"It was evident, that we must be their first object; and, that they must consider themselves certain of success against two

men, encumbered with four women. The appearance of the five banditti caused Pierre to suspect they did not belong to the garrison, but were marauders inhabiting the Tyrol, and infesting the skirts of the Lindaw and Bregentz forest. Among such, his authority would avail nothing; defence was necessary, and that defence must be resolute.

"Arriving at the summit of a hill, whence we could see the two gentlemen, Pierre fired one of his pistols. Fortunately the sound reached them; they stopped to await our coming up, and we lost no time in reaching the spot where they had reined up. Scarcely had we arrived within hearing, before the banditti, who proved to be such as Pierre suspected, had approached so near as to fire their carbines at our party.

"Pierre and the doctor instantly dismounted, and leading the horses into a small recess in the wood, placed them-

selves among a heap of crags, over which they levelled their pieces, and, at the first discharge, brought down one of the robbers: another was wounded in the arm, but by no means disabled: he rushed on, in a most determined manner; and, as he approached, turned his right side towards them, so as to fire his pistol with a good aim: it missed, and he threw it on the ground. He drew another pistol which went off, and wounded Pierre in the shoulder.

"In the mean while, the two gentlemen were arduously engaged with the other three of the banditti: many shots were exchanged, but without effect. The former drew their swords, and charged their assailants with prodigious bravery; but, it is probable, the result would have been unfavourable to them, had not the nun sprang from her seat, and, after drawing the sword of Pierre, who was fainting with pain and loss of blood,

rushed upon the single horseman now opposed to the doctor, and cut him so desperately over his left knee, as to cause him to fall from his horse.

" The doctor, being thus set at liberty to assist the gentlemen, who were hard pressed, levelled his carbine at the foremost of the banditti, and shot him through the head. The other two, seeing the fate of their companions, gave up the contest, and made the best of their way towards Ems.

" Seeing Pierre fall, I jumped off the horse, and ran to his assistance: he was not dangerously wounded, but was in great pain; the ball having lodged immediately above the shoulder joint, and deprived him of the use of his arm. Monsieur Vaison lost no time in applying bandages, and in doing whatever was practicable at the moment, towards affording relief to the brave youth. As for Madame, she fainted, and would

certainly have been severely bruised, had she not fortunately reclined into the arms of my attendant, who was seated on the other horse, which stood close to that managed by the doctor.

"The two gentlemen now approached us, after having driven the robbers from the field. One of them was an elderly person, of rather a large stature, whose countenance strongly indicated benevolence and integrity. The other was a remarkably handsome youth, of about eighteen, whose air was perfectly military, and whose form was peculiarly elegant. The latter sprang off his horse, and instantly aided his companion to alight: they advanced towards us, who were busy in administering to the wants of our wounded friend.

"The doctor was kneeling beside Pierre, whose back rested against an immense stone; I was on his other side;

the nun, and my attendant, were employed in the endeavour to restore Madame to her senses, by bathing her temples with some excellent spirits we had obtained from the four troopers.

" The strangers no sooner had passed round the stone, which greatly concealed us from their sight as they were advancing, than the elderly gentleman, on seeing our friend in that lamentable condition, turned suddenly pale, and exclaimed, ' Pierre!'

" Pierre raised his eyes, and in a moment found himself in the arms of—his father! The doctor was for a moment entranced; but, suddenly starting up, he embraced the young stranger with expressions of the utmost affection.

" ' Gracious heaven!' exclaimed the senior, ' by what strange, and circuitous, paths does heaven lead us to happiness!'

" ' 'Tis all a miracle,' added the

youth; whose eyes were overflowing with joy, alloyed by the sight of his cousin Pierre in so painful a state.

"'What brought you to this part of the country?' said Monsieur Vaison: 'I thought, brother, you had determined never to quit your village.'

"'The narrative would be tedious,' answered the stranger, 'and we have something more to do than to talk; let us be gone; there is no saying how soon we may be attacked by others of the banditti. In the mean time, suffice it to say, that we were induced to travel this way by the receipt of a letter; which I began this morning to suspect was written with some malicious intention; and I doubt not, from your surprise, was intended to overwhelm us with ruin. But come, Pierre must be instantly conveyed to Bregentz, where we can attend to his wound: lend a hand, nephew, and we will put him upon his horse.'

" They proceeded to do so, and found that Madame was tolerably recovered. On recognizing her brother, she again subsided into a fit; which was, however, of short duration. She wondered at the eventful meeting, and would have indulged herself in a thousand questions, but her brother strictly enjoined forbearance; assuring her that, on arriving at Bregentz, her curiosity should be fully satisfied.

" ' I hope,' added he, ' that Pierre's wound will not prevent him from travelling by easy stages; we can cross the lake at Lindaw; and, passing through Rapperswild and Thun, arrive in four, or five, days at Corbiers.'

" ' At Corbiers!' exclaimed the nun, who had resumed her seat on horseback.

" The strangers now for the first time directed their eyes towards her: they stared with astonishment at her strange appearance; and, at times looking at

Monsieur and his lady, seemed to ask 'who they had in company?'

"'Do you know Father Gregoire? Is he alive?'

"'But three days are passed since we left him in health,' replied Monsieur Lorrain.

"The nun's countenance evinced the satisfaction she felt in receiving the welcome intelligence: she said no more, but, crossing herself repeatedly, applied diligently to a small rosary attached to a girdle under her cloak.

"It was with great difficulty we could place Pierre on his horse, behind the youth; who quitted his own for the accommodation of Monsieur Vaison. I mounted behind Madame, who undertook to guide our steed. We moved on as briskly as Pierre's misfortune allowed; and, by the time the sun was full in the south, arrived in safety at the *Couronne Imperiale*, at Bregentz.

"We were about to enter the inn, when the host, who appeared to be a true German, came to the door; and, in a language which not one of the party except myself understood, it being a mixture of French, Tyrolese, and Italian, expressed his concern at not being able to accommodate us, on account of the members of the municipiality being assembled, and the whole of his apartments completely occupied. 'We have not,' added he, 'room for a cat.'

"'Surely,' answered I, 'you can find room for a wounded officer.'

"The host shrugged up his shoulders, and, approaching the horse on which Pierre was mounted, said he would make a shift to accommodate us with some refreshment; but, that, in regard to a lodging, it was absolutely out of his power to oblige us.

"We were compelled to accept the offer, and, having with great difficulty lifted Pierre from his seat, took posses-

sion of a small room; in which, however, there was a comfortable fire. The doctor lost no time in examining the wound; but nothing effectual could then be done: it being agreed that there appeared no possibility of remaining at the inn; which was extremely crowded with persons who paid no regard to the sufferings of our sick companion, but indulged in vociferation and smoking to a degree I never before experienced; Monsieur Vaison proposed to hire a carriage, wherein Pierre, Madame, and myself, might be conveyed to Lindaw.

"The landlord was summoned: he made so many difficulties, that I began to lose all hope of any amelioration of our circumstances, when, fortunately, one of the municipiality, who was in an adjoining apartment, and overheard my earnest application to the landlord, sent in a message, requesting permission to offer his services.

" It may be justly supposed we were highly rejoiced at so fortunate an occurrence: the doctor immediately went to the friendly stranger, and in a few minutes returned with him into our apartment. The latter, in a tone of authority, enjoined silence to be enforced throughout the inn; and ordered that his valet should immediately attend.

" Our visitor was about thirty years of age, rather inclined to be corpulent, of an open countenance, and might be called a well-featured man; rather tall, wore his hair in the German stile, was dressed in black, and, on the whole, appeared somewhat above the middling class.

" After addressing us in the most agreeable manner, and sympathising on the subject of the misfortune we were under, he enquired whither we were proceeding; and whether it was in his power to forward us on our journey.

" ' I have,' added he, ' a remise in

which two persons may be conveniently seated; but I fear the motion would prove more injurious, than the conveyance would be agreeable, to your wounded companion.'

" The valet entered: his appèarance was much in favour both of himself, and of his employer.

" ' Olivier,' said the gentleman, ' as it is impossible to find peace and quiet in the inn for these ladies and gentlemen, though I should with great pleasure resign my apartment to their use; let the remise be fitted up instantly, with whatever the inn affords, so as to convey the wounded officer to Lindaw, as comfortably as possible. Get some beddings, and secure them to the back and seat, and desire Mr. Von-Spiegel to put four of his best horses to, without a moment's delay.' The valet retired abruptly.

" We were overwhelming our benefac-

tor with thanks, purely grateful, when he interrupted us with the request, that, if we valued his good offices, he might be spared from such lavish praises.

" ' Let us,' added he, ' make good use of our time: when I first heard of your arrival, the landlord had just announced that our dinner was ready: we, however, refrained from attacking it, until your wants might be known: they are urgent; we are in a manner residents at the *Couronne Imperiale;* and can, without any severe penance, wait for further supplies.'

" He called the landlord, and directed the dinner, prepared for himself and companions, to be immediately brought in. His order was promptly obeyed, and we sat down, though with very little appetite, to a repast of which we, however, stood greatly in need.

" Without entering into particulars beyond the circumstances of our en-

gagement with the banditti, he soon collected sufficient to let him know that we should have two horses more than we wanted. Monsieur Vaison tendered them to his acceptance; but the offer was politely declined. The stranger retired for a few minutes, and on his return observed, that he never in his life saw finer cattle than the three blacks. 'I should esteem it a favour if you would part from them,' said he..

"'They belong to my nephew, the wounded officer,' replied Monsieur Vaison; 'and I doubt not but he would readily dispose of them, provided we could find conveyance for those who rode them hither.

"That matter was soon settled: the gentleman gave the doctor an order on a bank a Vienna for twelve hundred crowns, and ordered two persons belonging to the town to ride the spare horses as far as Lindaw, whence the three blacks

were to be led back the next morning. At Lindaw, he said, we should fall into the post road, and could not fail of meeting with abundance of carriages, that would take us to any part of Germany, or the Cantons.

" When the stranger's carriage came round to the door, a friendly altercation arose between Madame Vaison and myself, in regard to who should accompany Pierre in the remise. Many forcible arguments were adduced in favour of her proceeding with her nephew; but, as she knew me to be in a state of pregnancy, and feared that another journey on horseback might affect my health, my objections were over-ruled, and I ascended the carriage, into which we made a shift to raise Pierre; though not without giving him considerable pain.

' The valet had taken such pains to line the interior with various soft materials, that we might be said to have re-

clined on down. Nor was such a precaution unnecessary; for in some places the road was almost impassible, in consequence of the number of stones that lay scattered; some partly buried, and others but recently fallen from the neighbouring heights.

"We got on, nevertheless, at a good rate, considering all things; and by sunset were in view of the lofty spires of the Benedictine monastery at Lindaw. Pierre was, indeed, too ill to converse much; the little he uttered was to express his thanks for my attentions, and to ask for some diluted wine; which we had provided to relieve him from thirst.

"The mountains, by which we were everywhere environed, now caused the day to close in apace, and it was nearly dark when we descended a steep bank, at the foot of which stood a small hut. It was the habitation of two men and a woman, who attended the ferry over a

stream, which, having its sources much elevated, rolled with considerable force along the narrow bottom confining its rugged bed.

"The spot selected for passing this water, which was at all times deep and rapid, but now had risen in consequence of rain having fallen to the eastward, was favourable, on account of its narrowing to scarce half its general width: here it did not exceed forty yards. A rope was strained from bank to bank, and served to conduct the boat over, by means of two large rings fastened to her sides; the men pulling at the rope to forward the vessel from one to the other side.

"But the size of the boat was by no means equal to bearing the weight of the remise, laden as it was; we were, therefore, compelled to alight, and to send over the horses in the first instance; then Pierre, the doctor's son, and myself,

went on board, and were proceeding towards the opposite bank, which we were indeed just reaching, when the rope gave way; and the boat, being liberated from detention, was swept down by the current at a prodigious rate.

"The boatmen had not provided against such an accident: they had no oars, no anchor, no sail; in fact, nothing that could avert the dangers to which we were thus suddenly exposed. Nor did they seem at all calculated to brave perils of this description, but were evidently overcome with dismay; when for a moment they seemed to recover their senses, personal safety was their only object.

"Pierre did all he could to rouse them to exertion, and his cousin displayed the utmost coolness and fortitude: the latter was ever on the watch to keep the vessel from striking against the banks; and made admirable use of a short, stout pole,

which happened to lie at the bottom of the boat.

"In the mean time we drifted down many miles, and, at last, found ourselves in the middle of a large river; which we were told by one of the ferry-men was the Rhine, and would carry us into the lake of Constance.

"How shall I describe my sensations on hearing, that I was once more afloat on that stream, and possibly on the identical spot, where I had last seen Letour! The recollection of that eventful moment seemed to lessen my sense of danger: it completely occupied me, and prevented my paying proper attention to the situation we were in.

"The boat proceeded in a very irregular course, in consequence of the current setting from side to side; hence, with extreme difficulty it was kept from being dashed against the numerous rocks which, in many places, broke

the water; causing it to foam, and roar, in the most dreadful manner.

" At length the vessel touched upon a shoal, and swung round so suddenly, and with such force, that it was impossible for me to avoid the bough of an alder growing upon a little promontory, that projected for some yards into the stream; forming a kind of bay above it.

" The only effort I could make at the moment, was to seize hold of the bough, and to retain a firm hold: this I did instinctively, while the boat was passing from under me. My weight bent the tree down considerably, but afforded me the satisfaction of ascertaining, that the water was not in that place more than two feet deep; although a few yards above, and below, it was of unknown depth.

" Finding myself firmly supported under foot, and having the bough to uphold me, I contrived, notwithstand-

ing the impetuosity of the current, to reach the bank. In vain did I look for the boat; in vain did I call—nothing was to be seen; no answer was given! The winding of the stream, added to the darkness of the night, and the noise of the rushing waters, totally precluded me from ascertaining the fate of my companions.

" Wet, weary, and sad, I threw myself on the cold ground; a kind of mist seemed to overpower my faculties, and to render me listless and inactive. It is impossible to say how long I was in that situation; all I recollect is, that, feeling some animal applying its nose to my face, I screamed and started up. It was a dog: he barked; and in a moment after I heard the voices of several persons, who appeared to be approaching in consequence of my cries.

" They proved to be some men and women belonging to the little town of

Rheineck, situated on the western bank of the Rhine, near its debouchure into the lake of Constance, who had been at a wedding at Alstetten, a few miles up the river, and were returning homewards.

" They approached; and, in the most compassionate manner, afforded me all the relief in their power: my wet clothes were taken off, and the good souls replaced them with the greatest alacrity; divesting themselves, notwithstanding my urgent remonstrances, of many articles of raiment; whereby they must have suffered greatly at such an inclement season.

" It was with much difficulty I could walk even to Rheineck, which was not more than a mile distant; although my good friends, my preservers I should rather say, supported me; one walking on each side, and bearing me up, so as to leave but little weight for my

feet to sustain. We stopped at the door of a small cabin on the skirts of the town, and were speedily admitted into an apartment, where every thing indicated industry and happiness. A venerable couple were seated on either side of a cheerful fire; to the enjoyment of which I, in particular, was welcomed in the most earnest manner.

"On a small table stood a basket of light cakes, a large piece of Swiss cheese, and a flaggon of wine, such as is ordinarily drank by the middling classes; and, by the more humble on days of festivity; such as the wedding of a relative, or the birth of a son, &c. So soon as I was seated, the old man rose from his chair, opened a small closet that was in a nook at his back, and taking from it a neat horn cup, filled it with wine, of which having tasted, he made me drink the remainder.

"Many enquiries, eager and kind,

but not resulting from curiosity alone, were made, regarding the cause of my distress: all seemed anxious to hear my story, which was told in few words, so far as related to the accident at the bridge, and excited the most lively compassion among my hospitable friends. The venerable pair seemed particularly affected; they even shed tears at my recital, which was no sooner finished, than the good father beckoned to one of the youths who had conducted me, and whispered to him in a very earnest manner.

"The lad nodded to some of his companions, who, following his example, took their hats, and went up into the village at a round pace. The father's countenance seemed to brighten up. He became more cheerful, and entered into conversation freely. He touched upon subjects which I should have thought above the sphere of his education, and

displayed an intimate knowledge of mankind.

"Observing me to be extremely weary, and no less dejected, the good woman informed me, that every thing was in readiness for my retiring to rest. Her eldest daughter, at the same time, offered to conduct me to the chamber in which I was to partake of her bed.

"'My dear,' said the good old man,' 'perhaps the lads will return soon, and bring us some tidings.'

"The dame acquiesced in the propriety of his remark, which revived my hopes of learning the fate of my worthy companions: she assured me the boat must be observed in its passage down the Rhine; and, that if my companions had the good fortune to pass safely over the ledge of rocks, where the bough caught me, there was no other danger to be apprehended.

"Cherished by hope, and urged by

anxiety, I forbore from retiring to bed until a very late hour: when nature being too severely oppressed, I was compelled to avail myself of the good woman's repeated offer; and, after a cordial, I may say an affectionate, shake of the hand from both her and her husband, accompanied the kind Eloise to her chamber.

"I did not, however, experience immediate relief from the comforts of an excellent bed, and an obliging, sensible companion: every time I heard the least noise in the room where we had been sitting, my heart palpitated forcibly, and my eager mind sought for instant information.

"My hopes were not gratified; though several persons, at times, had entered the house: all was whispering, and seeming caution, lest I should be disturbed; until I ventured to request that Eloise would enquire if the boat had been seen.

" It had been seen stranded on the eastern bank of the Rhine.

" ' Were any persons seen in it?'

" ' None.'

" This was not complete satisfaction, but it satisfied me that the vessel had passed the ledge of rocks; therefore it was probable my friends were in safety. The idea consoled me, and I fell into a sound sleep, which lasted to a late hour in the morning.

" When I awoke, Eloise had risen: all was silence; every thing that had passed the preceding evening appeared like a dream; and it was not until I had been some minutes fairly quit of my drowsiness, that I felt convinced of the reality. Hearing me move, the old woman came into the apartment, and opened a shutter; whereby light was admitted, and I was enabled to dress in my own clothes, which had been carefully dried, and were lying on a stool at the bed-side.

"The good soul would not allow me to express the sense I entertained of the kindness with which I had been treated, but led me into the keeping-room, and seated me in a corner by the fire-side; which done, she placed a little table at my elbow, and presented me with a bason of warm milk, and a small cake of excellent bread.

"I was extremely earnest in my enquiries regarding the boat; but my good hostess was not able to give me the information I wanted: however, before I had ate my breakfast her husband came in, and congratulated me on the safety of my friends; who, it was reported by a person from Lindaw, had been seen, about a mile from that town, at a late hour the preceding night.

"The welcome intelligence went to my soul: I burst into tears, and incoherently mixed my thanks to Heaven, with those to the aged pair. My sorrows were abruptly chaced away, but

I felt a strong desire to repair to Lindaw, in order to make certain that what I had heard was true. But Lindaw was ten miles distant, and no conveyance could be obtained; besides, it began to snow, and the cross-road was next to impassable at that season. On the other hand, a carrier was just setting out for Besson; whence I should easily find a conveyance, or be able to walk, to Constance.

"My resolution was soon taken: after the most lively expressions of gratitude to my kind friends, who had by this time all assembled, I seated myself under the tilt of the carrier's cart, well wrapped up in various garments, with which the good old woman and the lovely Eloise supplied me; and set off in company with a young woman, who was going within a short mile of Constance.

"Nothing material occurred on the journey; but the snow fell rather heavy, and caused us to arrive very late at Bes-

son; where it was in vain we endeavoured to procure a carriage, of any description, to convey me to my aunt's. I was compelled to walk on, and to find my way as well as I could through the snow; which, however, contributed in some degree to facilitate my progress, by the light it reflected.

"After a most painful and difficult journey I reached Constance; but the recollection of past occurrences oppressed me beyond measure. I was agitated in the extreme; and had scarcely strength to reach the door of my aunt's house, before I fell senseless!

"Thanks to the Almighty, and to my worthy relative, for the protection and kindness I have since experienced. Not that I can boast of happiness! The circumstances I have detailed cannot but cause me to heave many a sigh, and to shed many a tear! Lost to my friends, and snatched from the man whom I loved; uncertain of his fate,

and altogether ignorant of many particulars whereby it might be ascertained; returned to my home under circumstances peculiarly interesting, and subject to the condemnation of the world, Annette must be miserable!"

Thus concluded the memoir; during the perusal of which Philip's eye had often overflowed, and Jaqueline's cheek reddened with indignation: but that indignation resulted more from pride, than from compassion. Seeing Philip drop the manuscript, as he repeated the emphatic conclusion, she eyed him with peculiar keenness; her countenance in perfect unison with those sentiments to which her mind had long become familiar.

"There, brother, is a pretty made-up story!" Did you ever hear such an abominable pack of lies? Castles, and governors, and lakes, and boats, and sol-

diers, and doctors, and the Lord knows what! and yet the jade faces me out that 'tis all gospel!"

Philip made no reply; but remained overwhelmed with commiseration for his unhappy daughter. Many were the ejaculations which escaped him, and many were the curses he uttered against the authors of her ruin! At length, he sent Jaqueline up stairs to see if Annette had yet awakened; when, on being informed that she was still fast asleep, he took his hat, and, saying he should call early the next morning, returned to the inn, where Robert was impatiently waiting for him.

The various incidents related in his daughter's memoir, had made a deep impression on Philip's mind: many circumstances appeared extraordinary, but by no means incredible: the old man knew much of the world, and such events as Annette had detailed were familiar

either to his eye, or to his ear. But he was greatly perplexed as to the reason of Jaqueline's having made so violent an attack upon his young companion. If she were in the right, Robert must be a hypocrite of the basest description: a character which, the old man's heart satisfied him, was by no means applicable.

It was a delicate subject; and to interrogate the youth would convey an opinion of doubt and mistrust: therefore Philip resolved to say nothing, but to leave to time the developement of so mysterious an adventure.

The young corporal had finished a tour through the town, and had been full an hour in expectation of seeing his conductor return: he was about to send a messenger to Jaqueline's house, when the veteran entered the little apartment, in which supper was ready laid upon a bench near the window. The friends met in rather a curious manner: Philip

abstracted from every idea but what related to Annette; and Robert extremely confused and dejected by the reflection, that, in all probability, Jaqueline's conduct must have made a strong impression on Philip: hence, there was an obvious restraint in their manner of accosting each other.

Robert was, however, determined to come to an explanation; therefore, so soon as the supper things were removed, he began the subject; but in such a manner as he thought should throw Philip off his guard, and produce an open avowal of his sentiments.

"Your sister's conduct was very extraordinary, Philip!"

"She is a very extraordinary woman, Mr. Robert."

"I wonder what could have occasioned so outrageous an attack?"

"You know as much as I do of the matter, Mr. Robert!"

"She made my head ache terribly."

"I am truly sorry for it, Mr. Robert."

"What *could* be the cause?"

"Perhaps it was something relating to her niece, Mr. Robert."

"Her niece!—what niece?"

"My daughter, Mr. Robert."

"Your daughter, Philip?"

"Yes, Annette Armand."

"What! is Annette your daughter!"

"Yes; the world may disclaim her, but her father shall never cease to cherish the poor, unfortunate—!"

Philip's lips trembled as he spoke, and obstructed the articulation of a name endeared to him by the ties of consanguinity, and rivetted to his heart by misfortune. He dropped a tear; and, as usual, consoled himself with the contemplation of her infant features: the little case ushered its contents to the veteran's eye; it received the moist token of affection; and, after a short pause, ter-

minated by a heavy sigh, and a look towards heaven, which seemed to express both supplication and faith; was returned to its wonted asylum.

So far from having gained his point, Robert found himself yet more embarrassed: his busy thoughts presented a variety of conjectures, of which each for a moment held its empire, until displaced by another yet more improbable; till he was, in the end, so perfectly baffled, that, as Philip had done, he determined to let the truth work its own way to the light.

But here again he reckoned without his host; for Philip, having recovered from the affectionate reverie in which he had been some time buried, now, in his turn, put some interrogatories, which absolutely staggered the youth.

"Pray, Mr. Robert, who sent that bundle of clothes for Annette?"

"My uncle."

"Did you ever see Annette?"

"Never."

"You know captain Raymond?"

"Captain Raymond!"

"Did you ever see Letour?"

"Letour!"

Philip did not altogether like the manner in which Robert answered his questions: he thought it looked like evasion. The fact was, that it appeared to him certain, either that Robert must have been at Jaqueline's, or that he must have been among the banditti; and consequently had some secret motive for pretending perfect ignorance, regarding all transactions in which his daughter had been a sharer. He struggled to believe the youth correct and innocent, as he professed to be; but, as no other mode of explanation offered to his mind, the old man was left in a very painful state of suspense; from which, however, he made one more effort to be relieved.

"Your real name must be Pierre."

The youth was confounded: he hesitated, blushed, and appeared like one convicted of some heinous offence; but recovering himself answered that his name was truly Robert, and not Pierre.

Seeing his confusion in the first instance, Philip was about to embrace the youth, considering him as the preserver and restorer of his lost daughter; but hearing him so firmly disown that name which would have rendered him dear beyond all men, the veteran's heart was chilled, and he subsided from the pinnacle of joy into an abyss of sorrow. His crest fell; his bosom heaved: regardless of the solicitations of the youth, he left the apartment, and retired to bed.

The good soul did not close his eyes during the whole night; his thoughts were of Annette, and the manner in which Jaqueline had treated Robert.

After a conflict, in which either opinion at times preponderated, he reconciled himself to the full conviction, that his companion could not be Pierre.

In this instance he argued justly; for it was evident, that if he had ever seen the supposed Raymond, some recognition must have taken place when the latter was wounded and taken to prison; where also Robert had seen him the night after the gang were defeated.

Nor, indeed, was Philip certain that the prisoner was the governor of the fortress, as it was called, wherein Annette had been detained. A number of unconciliating circumstances tended to throw a veil over that part of the subject, and made him resolve to be early at the house of his sister.

He rose at break of day, and knocked at Jaqueline's door: she admitted him, but did not fail to express her displeasure at the manner in which he had quit-

ted her the preceding evening. To that the old soldier was indifferent; he enquired for Annette, and being told that she was rising, seated himself very contentedly; begging his sister to lay the breakfast things without delay.

The meeting of the father and the daughter was highly interesting: they clung to each other, while their eyes evinced those sympathetic feelings their tongues were unequal to express. Joy and sorrow, diffidence and faith, pain and pleasure, were so mingled, as to produce the most exquisite sensations.

Jaqueline smiled; but it was at what she deemed the weakness of paternal credulity.

Being seated at the breakfast table, Philip, after a short pause, thus addressed his daughter. "Annette, what was the name of the governor to whom you was married in the fortress?"

"Pardon me, my dear father, from

the disclosure; you may call to mind that I solemnly pledged myself to secrecy in that particular."

"True, Annette, I had forgot; and ought not to have asked the question; but perhaps you will not feel any difficulty in satisfying me whether or not his name was Raymond?"

"Father, you cannot but be sensible that answering one question, is granting a licence for another; but, as you might conclude from my silence that it was Raymond, I declare to you that was not his name."

Philip appeared much disappointed at his daughter's negative; he had hoped that Raymond was her husband, and had already in his mind prepared for measures which should insure her future happiness. Recollecting that Raymond was reputed to be the chief of a gang which harboured in the Tyrol, and that the memoirs did not exactly state on

which bank of the Rhine the fortress stood, he asked, "Whether the place where she was detained was in the Tyrol, or in the Cantons?"

"In the Cantons, father; and, from all I could learn, not far from the lake of Walstat."

The veteran now fully concluded that he might rely on Robert not being Pierre, and on his ci-devant captain not being the husband of Annette. Though he would rather have ascertained the reverse, he felt much relief in having his doubts removed; and resumed his wonted serenity.

"I have provided an excellent situation for you, Annette: you are to attend Madame Le Brun; to whom I am under great obligations: her husband has retained me in his employ, and has most generously settled on me a pension that would maintain me comfortably."

"Well, to be sure! some folks have

rare luck! The gentleman must have taken a huge fancy to you; and the lady must be very kind indeed, to take such notice of a poor old soldier, and to provide so well for his daughter! But pray, brother, what will Madame Le Brun say when she comes to hear, that our Annette is the lady of a great governor, of a great fortress, in a great wilderness, God knows where? Ha, ha, ha! a pretty business truly! And pray, Philip, where are this good gentleman and his lady?"

"At Geselbach, to which place I am to return without delay; so, Annette, get every thing in readiness, and we will proceed to-morrow."

"Do they live at Geselbach, brother?"

"No, they are on their way to Vienna; my master is ill, he has been wounded by robbers, and will probably be unable to leave his present quarters for a week or more."

"If that be the case, father, allow me a little more time to prepare, and to recover from the indisposition under which I have suffered. In two or three days I shall be better; the idea, of residing under the same roof with my dear father, will contribute to my recovery. Oh! how happy will Annette be in daily contemplating the features of her worthy parent; in hearing his gladdening voice; in witnessing his happiness; in soothing his cares! The thought fills me with transport! In the society of her beloved father, no care shall obtrude on the mind of Annette!"

Such reasoning could not be withstood; it was therefore settled, that Philip should despatch his companion to Geselbach with the intelligence of Annette's indisposition, taking with him any letters there might be for Monsieur Le Brun; and, that, on the third morning, they should leave Constance to attend their

benefactors. Philip having made known to Robert in what manner he had arranged, that youth readily acquiesced in the propriety of his plan, and instantly accompanied him to the post-office, to enquire if any letters had arrived for Monsieur Le Brun.

The office-keeper handed to him a parcel of letters that had come at various times to the office, desiring him to see if there were any for the person he named. There was not even one; but Philip observed three for the Compte de St. Hilare. He made no doubt but they were for the chevalier; who, he supposed, might have succeeded to some estate and title; therefore he paid the postage, and put them into his pocket.

"Do you know the Compte de St. Hilaire?" said Robert.

Philip was rather perplexed, but answered "Doubtless; or I should not take his letters."

"The name is unknown in these parts;" said the office-keeper; "does the gentleman reside in the Cantons?"

Philip sighed—Robert's looks were eager; they seemed to demand an answer to the question, to which an affirmative was, at length, given.

That matter being settled, the two travellers returned to the inn; when Robert, after a cordial shake of the hand, mounted his horse, and galloped away on the road to Geselbach; while Philip proceeded to visit several of his old friends, who welcomed him sincerely to their little habitations. One of them insisted on his taking a bed at his house; an offer to which Philip readily assented; as he should be more comfortably situated, and incur less expence. He prudently observed strict silence regarding the affairs of his family, which he soon perceived had been ridiculously blazoned abroad by his incautious sister: who was, at the

same time, extremely fond of collecting all the scandal of the town.

The time of departure being arrived, and an excellent pillion fitted to the horse, Annette appeared at the door, for the first time since her lying-in, with her bundle. The neighbours all flocked to their windows, and entrances, under the influence of idle curiosity, to see her take her departure. Her father was about to mount: but she reminded him that as yet she had not visited the grave in which her infant was deposited.

Philip instantly led her to the burial-place, and pointed out to her a stone he had caused, unknown to her, to be placed over the little innocent.

The kindness was not thrown away: Annette burst into tears; and kneeling at his feet, beside the humble record of her loss, gave a loose to affection for the babe, and gratitude to her sire.

Philip's constitution was not proof

against so forcible an assault: he was agitated; but rallying as much fortitude as his weakness could command, he maintained a kind of stand against his feelings; and, after a desperate struggle, made a shift to claim the victory. Gently supporting his daughter, he led her from a scene replete with anguish, and amid the gaping neighbours, many of whom, forgetting the laws of delicacy, approached, to witness Annette's dejection, he placed her securely behind him: bidding farewel to Jaqueline, who was not a little rejoiced at the departure of her niece, he quitted Constance, firmly resolving never again to enter within its walls!

They discoursed much on their journey regarding the circumstances which had placed Philip in the family of Monsieur Le Brun: the recital interested Annette extremely: she already felt an attachment to that gentleman, and congratu-

lated her father on the good fortune which had provided both for herself, and for him, in so enviable a manner. Prudence forbad Philip's going through St. Gal: he took a circuit through the adjacent country, along the numberless bye-paths, and viewed from a distance the lofty spires and towers of that ancient pile; of whose inhabitants he entertained no very favourable opinion.

Annette enquired why he went so far about, instead of going the direct road?

"I am not very partial to those same Dominicans: there is a certain kind of hide and seek business among them, which ill suits their calling. I have taken a great aversion to the whole tribe."

"But St. Gal is celebrated for its numerous devotees; and surely, father, among so many, there must be some good men."

"There may, Annette; but, if report

be true, St. Gal would not furnish enough to avert an angel's anger: my experience regarding its brotherhood induces me to avoid being seen among them. If my memory does not fail me, the monk who visited the fortress was from St. Gal: a circumstance which by no means pleads in his favour."

The recollection of that monk's conduct, threw a gloom over the countenance, and afflicted the heart, of the veteran's daughter: confused retrospection offered to her fancy a repetition of all the horrors she had experienced when she was quitting her chamber in the fortress, and induced a melancholy which Philip could not fail to perceive; and to dissipate which he urged his horse forward to Herissaw.

Having taken some refreshment, they remounted, and entered Geselbach too late to announce their arrival to Monsieur Le Brun. They were accommodated

at the little auberge, where Philip had met the poor woman he engaged to attend captain Raymond. After having seen that his daughter was properly attended, Philip directed his attention to those objects which had occasioned him so much solicitude, previous to his departure for Constance. The landlord informed him that Monsieur Le Brun was considerably better; that the wounded chief was dangerously ill; and that the person who had been engaged to attend him, had proved so extremely obnoxious, that she was forbid to enter the prison; in consequence of which it was supposed she had left the town; none of the inhabitants having seen her for the last two days.

The good man was extremely grieved at the sufferings of Raymond; though he would rather have heard of his demise, than see him living under the expectation of being treated with the ut-

most rigour of the law. Philip well knew, that, if once found guilty, which must inevitably be the case should Monsieur Le Brun stay to prosecute, his quondam officer must suffer. It therefore seemed an indispensable duty in him, to use all his influence with his master, to procure his forbearance from those measures which must be attended with fatal consequences to the prisoner.

Full of that intention, he retired to rest, and participated in that sound repose which ordinarily attends those blessed with benevolent dispositions, and whose consciences are exempt from the reproaches of iniquity. Annette, being much fatigued with her journey, soon forgot her cares: she awaked in the morning perfectly refreshed, and eager to be introduced to her new patrons.

Her father knowing that the family were not very early risers, took the opportunity of calling on the wounded lieu-

tenant, whom he found extremely weak and emaciated, but in good spirits, and likely to be soon out of the doctor's hands. The gallant youth received the old soldier with open arms; caused him to take a seat, and enquired in the kindest manner after his family: he interrogated him regarding the time he had been in the French service, how and where he had lost his limb, and on many other points naturally occurring to one of an ardent spirit, and enthusiastic in his profession.

Philip's answers raised him in the lieutenant's estimation: the latter drew forth his purse, and offered the veteran a medal; which had been given by the unfortunate Louis, to an officer who had distinguished himself in America under the command of Fayette.

Philip viewed it with inexpressible delight, but returned it, observing, that, as a medal, it was a curiosity more calculated for the cabinets of the curious than the

purse of a poor soldier. In vain did the officer press him to accept it: Philip was inflexible: "Consider," said he, "that persons who should see it in my possession, might impute to me the honour of having earned it; and I must either tacitly admit the imposition, or be at the trouble of disproving my claim to that distinction it was intended to confer."

The lieutenant viewed with astonishment a man of such pure integrity, and who bore so conspicuous a proof of bravery, wandering as an exile from that country, which owed so much to his exalted courage, and distinguished fidelity.

"I conclude," said he, "your discharge was couched in honourable terms?"

"Certainly," replied Philip, in a tone of conscious merit, "they could do no less: but you shall see it."

The parchment case was again produced, and the ragged certificate tendered to the officer's perusal. He read it with ex-

treme satisfaction, and when he observed by whom it was subscribed, exclaimed "Frederic St. Hilaire!"

"Yes, Sir, that was the name of the officer who commanded the company."

The lieutenant cast his eyes on the paper, looked at Philip, again examined the document, and again surveyed every feature of the veteran.

"What is become of the chevalier?"

Philip was thrown into a strange dilemma by the unexpected question: the eagerness expressed in the lieutenant's countenance, fully convinced him, that some account of the chevalier's fate was a desideratum of considerable moment: how to evade without telling a lie was the first consideration; but that appeared next to impossible.

"The last time I heard of him," said Philip, "he was alive."

"Did you hear where he was?"

"I heard Sir, that he had not quitted

the profession of arms; but I was not informed exactly as to the rank he held."

"'Tis strange there are no accounts of him," said the lieutenant.

Philip thought he had already equivocated too much; therefore, he judged it prudent to forbear from further conversation on the subject. He arose from his seat, and put forth his hand to receive the certificate, which the lieutenant, after again perusing it, seemed reluctant to return.

"You are going with Monsieur Le Brun to Vienna, I think?"

"Yes, Sir."

"Before you leave Geselbach I shall trouble you with a letter to a friend, who will take a lively interest in your welfare; make a point of calling to receive it, lest I should forget to send it to you."

Philip bowed obedience; and after thanking the officer for his kindness, returned to the auberge, where he found

Annette on tip-toe to proceed to the merchant's, at whose house Monsieur Le Brun was lodged. They accordingly walked thither, and were no sooner descried by Avril, who was brushing his master's surtout in the court before the house, than the honest African quitted his occupation, exclaiming "Massa Philip, massa Philip!" embracing the veteran in the most affectionate manner.

So overjoyed was he, that it was with difficulty he contained himself; suddenly quitting the veteran, he ran up stairs, and rushing into the apartment where his master and mistress and their friendly host were at breakfast, he, almost frantic with exultation, again exclaimed, "Massa Philip, massa Philip!"

His sudden entrance, and the agitation he was in, at first alarmed the family; but the joy which beamed in his eye, quickly gave them to understand there was no reason for apprehension.

"So, Philip is at last arrived," said the count.

"Iss Massa; him bring him daughter too: me tell him come up?"

"Certainly," said the countess.

Philip, in a manner that would have done credit to the best bred man in the kingdom, introduced his blushing daughter to the countess; who was extremely pleased with her appearance. All parties were indeed highly gratified, but none more than the grateful soldier, who felt inexpressible delight at seeing his benefactor so much recovered.

"You are arrived in excellent time," said the count, "for to-morrow we intend proceeding to Appenzel; it being extremely inconvenient for the surgeon to come hither daily to visit myself, and the worthy officer who shared in our misfortune. Our young friend Robert is gone forward, with a letter from our kind host, to prepare lodgings; in which

we shall very probably remain a fortnight."

"I rejoice, Sir," answered Philip, "at your being able to travel, and hope you will find benefit from the change. We should have arrived before, but my poor Annette has been at death's door, and it would have been unwarrantable in me to have quitted Constance earlier: I hope Mr. Robert told you the cause of our delay."

"He did, my good friend; and I agree with you in the propriety of not endangering her health by hurrying her from home. Her countenance assures me she is a good girl, and worthy of so amiable a parent. Madame will take proper measures for her accommodation when we arrive at Appenzel; 'till which we must endeavour to obtain lodging for her somewhere in the town."

Philip explained how they had been situated the preceding night, and pro-

posed that Annette should stay with him at the auberge, while the party remained at Geselbach; to which the count and his lady readily assented, as it would save much trouble, and that Annette seemed pleased with the idea of being under the same roof with her father.

Having settled that point, the veteran and Annette took their leave, and returned to the auberge, where the latter remained while Philip went to the prison to see the reputed Raymond.

"The jailor met him at the inner gate, and, on being interrogated as to the chevalier's health, gruffly answered, "Don't bother me about the villain; go and see him die."

Philip shuddered at the intelligence, and was not a little hurt at the unfeeling manner in which it was delivered; but he knew remonstrance was useless on such an occasion, and that the least expression of resentment would infalli-

bly occasion his being denied access to the prisoner: he therefore proceeded to the door of the cell, which was closed; and having tapped with his finger, received the chevalier's permission to enter; though in a tone which made Philip despair of his recovery.

The unfortunate man was seated upon the edge of the bed, fronting the door: his wan looks, added to a certain debility which attended even the motion of his sunken eyes, seemed to announce his hopeless condition, and to verify the jailor's words.

Philip drew back; he could scarce believe it was the same person he had left, not a week before, in all the amplitude of corporeal vigour. The chevalier fixed his eyes upon him, and, after a little consideration, seeming to recognize his faithful preserver, bent down his head, and uttered a most melancholy groan.

The veteran approached, knelt before

him, took his hand, and pressed it to his lips.

The chevalier slowly raised his head, again looked on Philip's countenance, shook his hand with extreme agitation, as though to express his grateful sense of the old soldier's kindness; and, in a hollow voice, said, "Generous Armand!"

By degrees the poor man recovered, and after a while assented to receive a little nourishment, which Philip proposed to bring over from the auberge. "You want strength," said he: "a little good broth, and a chopin of old wine, will restore you: comfort yourself; times may mend. Who knows what the morrow may bring? Possibly, these letters, which I found at the post-office in Constance, contain some intelligence that may please you—take them; they may amuse you while I prepare you some food."

The chevalier could scarcely read the superscriptions; but was struck with as-

tonishment at the error he perceived Philip had committed, in delivering the letters to him, instead of the count; for whom he saw they were intended. But he said not a word to Philip on that subject; intending to avail himself of any communication they might afford whereby his object might be attained.

Though he did not expect to derive any benefit from the contents of the letters, he thought it best to read them: this he did with extreme difficulty, for his visual faculties were much impaired, in consequence of the resolution he had formed, rather to perish through forbearance from food, than under the hands of the executioner. That forbearance had brought him nearly to the grave; yet had, in all probability, been the means of avoiding the fever which, it was to be apprehended, would attend the violent blow he had received from Avril's blunderbuss.

The perusal of the first letter seemed not to affect the chevalier; but the second was more interesting: he read it over repeatedly; his countenance became animated, and he seemed to look forward to the consummation of some event on which his safety was dependant. The third letter was opened: during its perusal indignation was marked in every feature; he arose from the bed side, and in a slow, pensive manner, his brows knit, and his eyes sternly directed towards the ground, appeared to ruminate upon its contents.

Philip now returned, and was not a little surprised, as he ascended the stairs, to hear the clank of fetters in the chevalier's cell; but, when the door was opened, and he saw the prisoner pacing the little space between the bed and the wall, the veteran was overjoyed.

"Ah, Sir, how happy I am to see you

able to walk: I had began to fear your marches and countermarches were over."

The chevalier was recalled to the recollection of the good man's kindness by the apostrophe: he smiled; and, desiring him to put down the bason on a stool, that stood by the head of the bed, closed the door, and resumed his former seat.

"How does your master do, Philip? I hope he is out of danger?"

"Thank God, Sir, he is bravely: I saw him this morning, and to-morrow shall accompany him to Appenzel."

The chevalier seemed surprised; he was for a minute or two absorbed in thought, and, in a tone of alarm, tinctured with disappointment, replied, "To-morrow!"

"Yes, Sir; Monsieur Le Brun means to proceed to-morrow to Appenzel, where he will probably remain a fortnight to complete his recovery."

"To-morrow!" repeated the chevalier,

seemingly concerned at the Count's early departure.

"I would he could stay for one or two days more; it would be a great consolation to me. I think if my wish were intimated to him he would consent to delay his journey: then should I die in peace!"

"You may assure yourself, Sir, that I will acquaint him with your desire; to which he, no doubt, will readily accede."

"Do so, Philip; and in the event of any difficulty being opposed to my request, tell him—." The chevalier paused; "Tell him—no—he will not refuse to comply with the last prayer of a dying man!"

The old soldier was too much affected to make any reply; he placed the little stool, on which was the bason of broth, before the prisoner, and resting on one knee, tendered the spoon to his use. The

chevalier, as he accepted it from the veteran's hand, smiled; it was the smile of gratitude, of one pleased and flattered, by kindness and attention.

"How long have you been with Monsieur Le Brun?"

"About ten or twelve days: he took me into his service the evening we arrived at Geneva."

"You are, no doubt, much attached to him: he bears an excellent character."

"True; he is the best of men. Not content with relieving me from distress, he sent me to Constance to bring my daughter, that she might be placed in his lady's service."

"Your daughter!"

"Yes; she arrived with me last night, and was presented this morning to Madame, who appeared greatly satisfied with her; but has desired she might re-

main at the auberge for the present, as there is not accommodation for her at Monsieur Pierard's."

The chevalier tasted the broth; it was excellent: the encomiums he expressed were cordials to the heart of Philip, who now began to hope that health might be restored: but, looking round the cell, and perceiving every thing in confusion, he speedily set all to rights, and seemed elated at having the opportunity of displaying his attachment.

"Ah, Philip!" said the chevalier, "I have missed you greatly since you went to Constance! not one kind word have I heard; not one kind look has been cast towards me!"

"I was in hopes, sir, that the woman I hired—"

The chevalier started—he appeared in horror.

"Oh! Philip! Philip!"——

This was all Greek to the old soldier; who, not having heard any thing on the subject from his landlord, could not imagine what had occurred. His curiosity was raised; but fear of agitating the chevalier caused him to withhold from putting a multitude of questions that thronged to his tongue's end. He was, however, partially relieved by the following short dialogue, which took place so soon as the chevalier's mind was in some measure tranquillized.

"What is become of that unfortunate being? I mean the woman you appointed to attend me during your absence."

"Really, sir, I know not; but my landlord told me she staid a very short time with him, and that she has not been seen by any of the towns-people for some days past."

"Poor soul!" rejoined the chevalier,

"I fear her intellects are much deranged: possibly by this time she may be no more!"

"If your honour pleases, I will endeavour to trace her, I dare say she——"

"Not for the world, Philip! Oh God! Oh God! thy ways are inscrutable!—Poor soul!—poor soul!"

The veteran now began to think, that either the blow on the head, or the sense of his forlorn situation, had deranged his old officer's understanding, and that the woman had left him from the apprehension of his doing her some injury. Considering however much recovered he appeared to be, yet that his situation was desperate, and that he was in duty bound to urge the Count's stay for a day or two, as the chevalier had requested, Philip took away the empty bason, and promising that he would speedily return with Monsieur Le Brun's answer, went to the auberge, where he communicated

to his daughter the miserable state in which he had left the prisoner.

Annette melted into tears at the recital; she urged her father to press their master's acquiescence to the unfortunate man's solicitation; adding, "I will be his nurse, and either restore him to health, or see him descend in peace to the grave."

Philip's soul was warmed by his daughter's benevolence, he kissed the tear from her cheek, and thanked her for the declaration she had made.

Though Annette knew not the secret motives which caused him to rejoice at her proposal, she knew her father's heart was ever open to pity, and she gloried in her resemblance to him in possessing that virtue: she anticipated much pleasure in nursing that man for whose welfare her father appeared so much interested; and lost no time in arranging some little matters, whereby she thought her patient

would receive either consolation, or benefit.

"Avril, can I be permitted to speak to your master?"

"Iss; what him Philip want to massa?"

"I have a message to deliver to him from the wounded prisoner: he cannot live long, and it would be a great consolation, if Monsieur Le Brun would defer his journey to Appenzel for a day or two."

"Him prisoner, d—n rogue, what for massa stay more long, make please to great cut-throat rascal? dat not good: me tink massa not stay for see him die. You not speak to massa—dat not good you speak to massa."

Philip was not to be diverted from his object by any arguments Avril could use; he was determined to see the count even at the risk of his displeasure: he felt that he was gratifying, if not serving, a man in distress; a man whom he had formerly

seen honoured and respected; but, who was now calumniated and despised: therefore, regardless of what might be the opinions of the crowd, he was resolved to persevere in the cause he had undertaken.

Avril did not fail, when he delivered Philip's message, to acquaint his master with the object of the solicited interview. The count stared; his lady frowned, and Monsieur Pierard looked grave: all were for a while silent.

The count desired that Philip might be called in.

There was a something in the air of Monsieur Le Brun which, at once, told the veteran, that Avril had communicated what was about to be asked in favour of the chevalier; and that something also gave him to understand, that the result would, in all probability, by no means correspond with his own wishes. That, however, did not discourage the

good man: he had never been intimidated by the enemies of his country; why, then, was he to shrink from an act of humanity?

"This is rather an unseasonable request, Philip; especially from a man who has so basely attempted my life."

"Then, sir, you will have the more merit in complying with it."

"But what good is to result to the prisoner from my acquiescence?"

Philip was silent for a moment.—"With regard to any benefit, I cannot say; but, sir, he cannot live long; and it would console him in the hour of death to think, that he had received your forgiveness; that you had——"

Philip did not know how to express his meaning: his heart was full, and he was hurt to think, that any objection should be made to a request, which to him appeared so reasonable. At length he resolved to place the matter on such a

footing as should induce his master to overrule, both his own scruples, and the admonitions of Monsieur Pierard, his lady, and Avril; all of whom were extremely averse to the Count's listening to any request, or suggestion," of whatever nature, that might originate with Raymond.

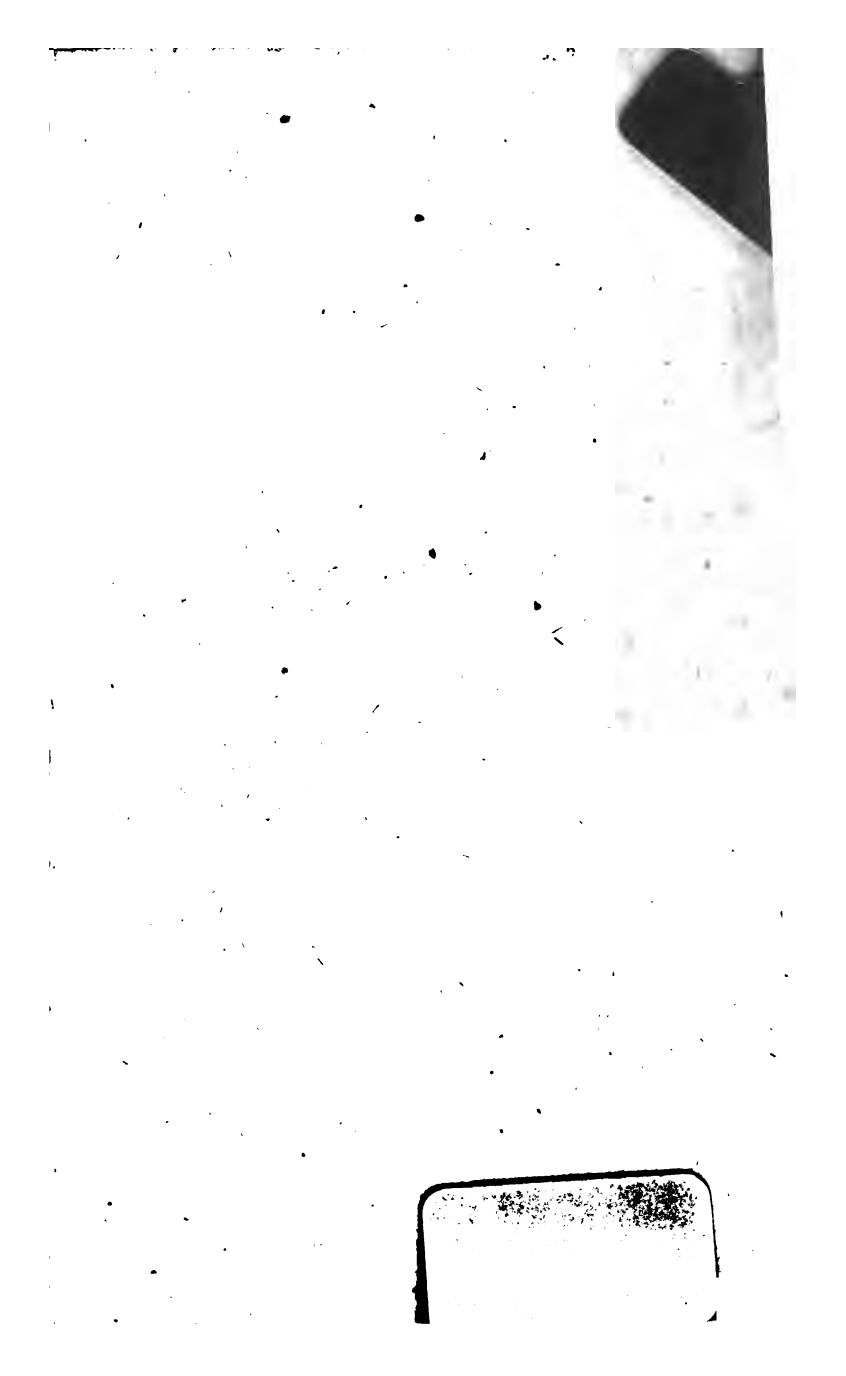
Much was argued against giving an assent to the Chief's solicitation, and the matter was apparently decided in the negative, when the veteran resolved to supply the sense of what, he doubted not, was about to be delivered to him by the Chevalier, who had abruptly interrupted himself, at a time when some expressions of import evidently were on the brink of utterance; therefore Philip thought there could be no harm in interpreting for him; which he did, by informing Monsieur Le Brun, that "the prisoner had something of great moment to disclose to him."

" Do you know what it relates to?"

" No, sir, he would not trust me with the secret."

The whole party were astonished; Avril, however, significantly shook his head, and, looking his master full in the face, said to him, " What man kill other man, that man not good man; always tricky, tricky me not him massa see him captain Raymond."

The Count smiled, but resolved to proceed to the prison, where, by conference with the supposed captain, he might possibly receive information which should avert further danger: he therefore, though much against the opinion of his lady and Monsieur Pierard, dismissed Philip with a message that he would visit the prisoner.

END OF VOL. II.

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